SPORTS / A21

Bata, Django down
Malaysia to reach World Cup quarterfinals

ACROSS / A13

Court stops
Poro Point port takeover

METRO / A17

Union leader
gunned down in QC restaurant

BUSINESS / B1

RP trade deficit shrinks
on improved economy; 6-month gap narrows to $1.83B

Regime that sits on bayonets get impaled

By Cecilio T. Arillo
Contributor

(Conclusion)

FOR LACK OF A CLEARLY DEFINED COUNTERINsurgency direction, the military and police are stuck on the body-count syndrome that is quite misleading. Insurgents produced more warm bodies faster than they could be killed.

REGIME/ A7

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, August 26, 2006 ★★ 9 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 259 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Pinoys with AIDS get free drugs, but ...

By Pennie Azarcon dela Cruz

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH STARTED offering free HIV medication to people living with AIDS, former Japan entertainer Hiro (not his real name) used to get his anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs from friends abroad where they are much cheaper.

Like other persons living with AIDS (PLWA), Hiro has to take a cocktail of two or more ARVs.

PINOYS/ A8

Nat'l calamity declared

GMA orders cleanup as devastation of Guimaras oil spill continues

RAY B. ZAMBRANO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

GREEN HIGHWAYS: Army soldiers of Camp Abat in Manaoag, Pangasinan, join Pangasinenses in planting seedlings along the highway in Urdaneta.

IN MOUNT MAYON'S shadow, students of Ilawod National High School in Camalig, Albay, plant seedlings along the national highway. REM ZAMORA

BING GONZALES/INQUIRER MINDANAO

IN COLORFUL tribal costumes, Bagobo tribesmen from Lamundao, Marilog in Davao City join other sectors in a day of tree-planting.

By Irene R. Sino Cruz
Inquirer Visayas
and Leila B. Salaverria
in Manila

CEBU CITY—PRESIdent Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday declared a state of national calamity as the effects of the Guimaras oil spill continued to devastate coastal communities in Western Visayas.

"I am declaring the Guimaras oil spill a national calamity. This is a calamity that demands the cooperation and solidarity of all Filipinos. Let us do what has to be done first and deal with the blame later," the President said at the annual convention of the National Prosecutors League of the Philippines (NPLP) held at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino.

Ms Arroyo expressed concern over the mounting health hazards in the communities affected by what is deemed the country's worst oil spill.

"I call upon Petron [Corp.] and the ship owner to immediately clean up the mess, and our Task Force Guimaras to attend to environmental and health issues," she said.

She also said she had ordered "a meticulous and rapid assessment of the situation by health authorities, followed by prompt and sustained action," including the setting up of mobile hospitals and the implementation of evacuation procedures, if needed.

In Manila, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said the President's declaration was intended as a means for the national government to address the oil spill on a "wider scope of prioritization."

NAT'L/ A7

Thousands plant trees, but cutting continues

By the Inquirer Bureaus
and Christine O. Avendaño

WHILE THOUSANDS OF YOUNG VOLUNteers were busy planting pine saplings on major roads in Benguet yesterday, the whirring of chainsaws from woodcarving shops nearby lingered, almost drowning the enthusiasm of those who joined the nationwide launching of the Green Philippine Highways (GPH).

Woodcarvers said they were busy cutting up acacia lumber they bought from lowland provinces to fill up product orders when the volunteers converged at Marcos Highway in Tuba town.

Thousands of government officials, employees and students joined the simultaneous tree-planting that covered 3,439 km of major highways in the country's 16 regions.

President Macapagal-Arroyo led officials in the tree-planting that she hoped would break the world record for greening the archipelago in a day. A long-term project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the GPH is meant to combat air pollution.

In a blue and green pantsuit, Ms Arroyo held her shovel and planted a Sacara sapling, an ornamental plant from the Malay Peninsula, near Km 0 at the Rizal

THOUSANDS/ A8

PEOPLE'S INITIATIVE

8.9 M signatures sent to Comelec

By Jerome Aning

A TRUCKLOAD OF DOCUMENTS BEARING THE signature of 8.9 million registered voters gathered over the past five months was dramatically deposited at the Commission on Elections office in Intramuros yesterday as the Sigaw ng Bayan and local government officials took the final step needed to get their people's initiative to change the Constitution under way.

Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities

8.9 M SIGNATURES/ A7

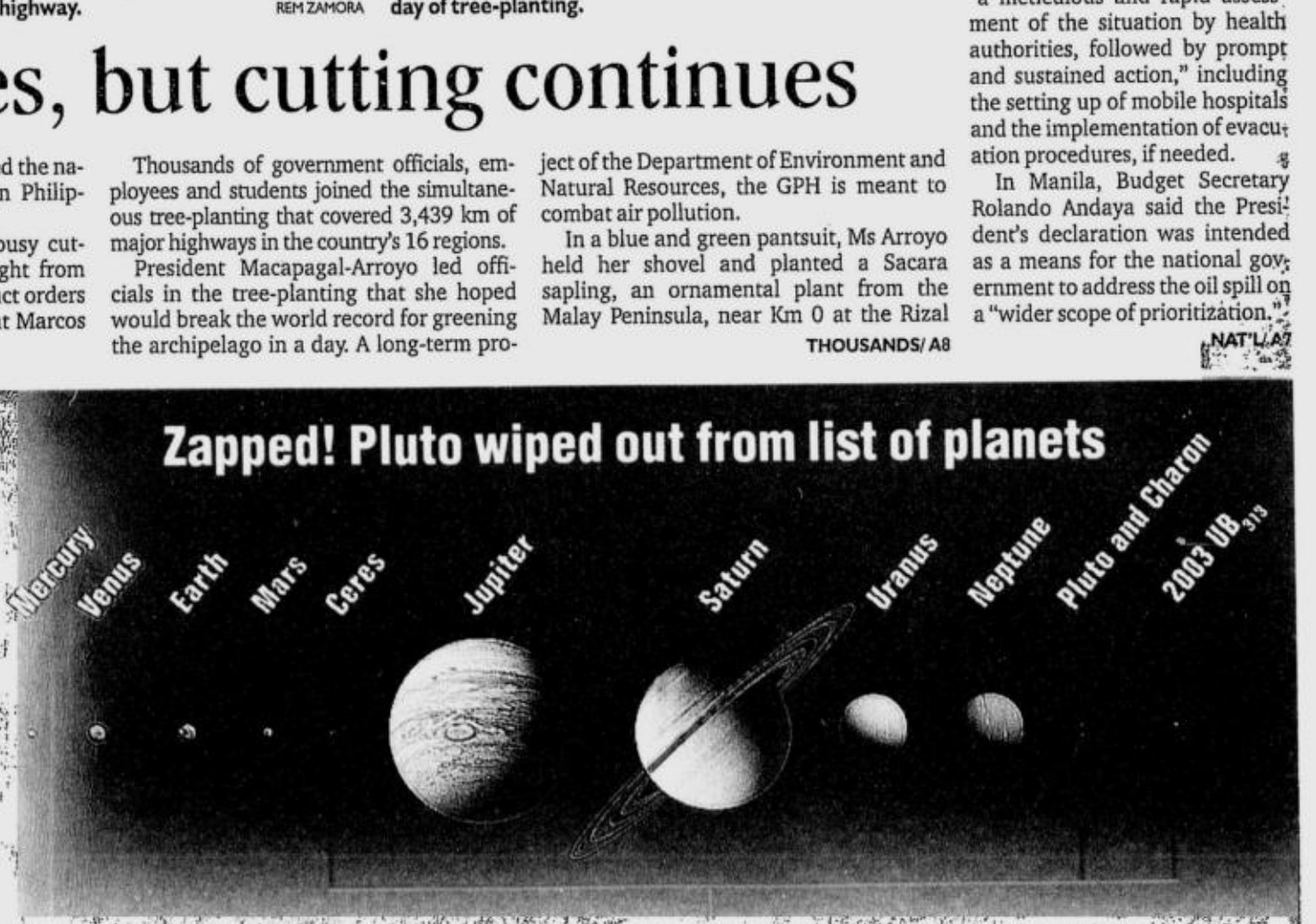
Impeachment raps: Same time next year

By Norman Bordadora
and Juliet Labog-Javellana

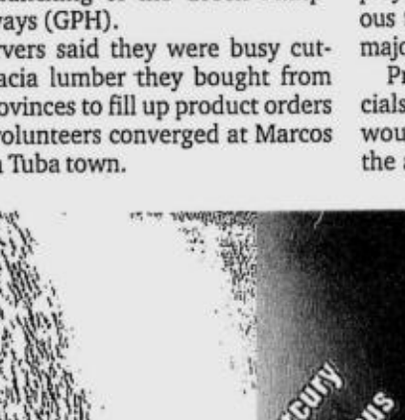
EXPECT CALOOCAN BISHOP DEOGRACIAS Iñiguez to again file an impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo next year, and to campaign against the lawmakers who voted in her favor.

"If she's still the President," Iñiguez said yesterday when asked whether he would make another stab at impeaching Ms Arroyo when the one-year ban against such proceedings expires late in July 2007.

IMPEACHMENT / A4



ARTIST'S rendition of the solar system with the eight remaining planets, plus Pluto and the other "dwarf planets."



By Imelda B. Joson
and Edwin L. Aguirre

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS—FOR 76 years, we've all been taught in school that our solar system consists of the Sun and nine planets. Starting from the Sun, the planets are: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. But now, it looks like we'll have to start rewriting our textbooks.

That's because the 26th General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union (IAU), after a heated debate among 2,500 scientists meeting in Prague, have approved on Thursday a formal definition of what a planet is.

Under this new definition, Pluto, traditionally considered the ninth planet, farthest from the sun, officially is no longer considered a full-fledged planet, downsizing our Sun's family to only eight. It has been named a "dwarf planet," which technically is not a true planet.

Since its inception in 1919, the IAU has been the world's scientific organi-

ZAPPED!/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2006

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains which may trigger flash floods and landslides over Bicol region and Eastern Visayas. The rest of the country will have cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/08/25/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Palace wants new nursing exams

By Armand N. Nocum

THE PANEL CREATED BY MALACAÑANG TO INvestigate the leakage in the recent nursing licensure examinations has filed a petition with the Court of Appeals seeking the invalidation and a retake of the exams on two subjects with the government footing the bill.

In a "petition-in-intervention" Dante Ang, head of the Presidential Task Force on National Licensure Examination, filed before the CA, said "nothing short of the invalidation and retaking of the two leaked subjects could repair the damage done to the reputation and integrity of the nursing exam."

Ang asked that the two test areas spoiled by leakage "be declared null and void for being tainted with fraud, and a new examination be ordered for the two subjects within sixty (60) days from rendition of judgment in this case with the expense or cost thereof to be provided by the government."

Joining the petition of three nursing groups that earlier obtained a temporary restraining order on the matter, Ang said the Board of Nursing resolution allowing a recomputation of the two test areas tainted by leakage be "declared null and void."

He also asked that the proclamation of the Professional Regulation Commission and the BON of the passing examinees be nullified for lack of basis.

According to Ang, the "results of the examination is tainted with fraud and cannot be valid basis for determining who passed and did not pass the examination and for the administration of oath for those who supposedly passed."

The original petitioners who sought for a retaking of the test were Rene M. Tadle, Earl Francis R. Sumile and Michael Angelo S. Brant, heads of the UST College of Nursing Faculty Association, the League of Concerned Nurses and the Binuklod na Samahan ng Mga Student Nurses, respectively.

In their petition, Tadle, Sumile and Brant warned that unless handled well, the issue of the alleged leakage in the exam would cause irreparable damage to the country's public health and safety and the prospects of nurses to work abroad.

They took the PRC and the BON to task for simply "recomputing" the scores after taking out the test areas of "medical/surgical nursing" and "neuro-psychiatric nursing" which were tainted by the alleged leakage.

Rather than "order the retaking" of the exam on the questioned two subject areas, they said the PRC and BON simply recomputed the scores the nursing students got in the three other areas of expertise to arrive at the average passing score.

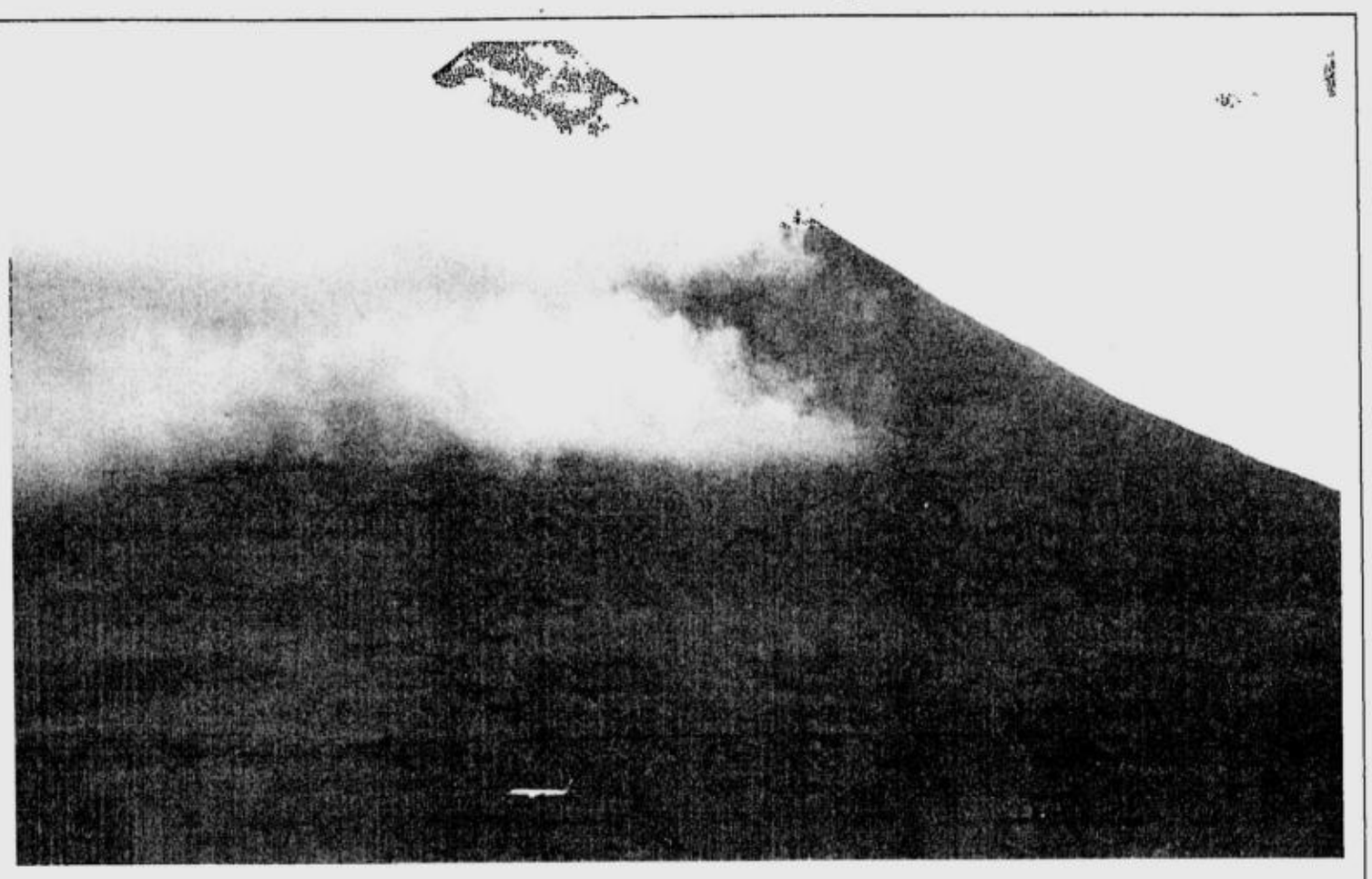
As this developed, more than a hundred nursing graduates gathered in front of the PRC yesterday morning to reiterate their "no retake" stand on the controversial exams last June.

"Retaking the exam would only mean an admission of guilt," Wyath Vinnmarin, the group's representative from the De Ocampo Memorial College, stressed, amid shouts and chants of "no retake" from his companions.

"We took the exams with clean hearts, souls and minds...We should not be punished for the sins of others," she said.

He added that graduates from Olivares College, Manila Central University, Manila Doctors' College, Dr. Yanga Colleges, Philippine Women's University, Far Eastern Univesity, Mary Chiles Hospital, De Ocampo Memorial College, Emilio Aguinaldo College, Delos Santos-Science and Technology Institute, Fatima College, Arellano University, Unciano College, Centro Escolar University, and San Juan de Dios Medical School also joined their protest actions.

But Cora Anonuevo, spokesperson of the Alliance of Nurses and Nursing Students Working for Relevant Nursing Education and Practice, said that they would leave the resolution of the matter to the court. *With a report from Margaux C. Ortiz*



MAYON FLYBY

A Philippine Airlines plane is dwarfed by the majestic Mayon Volcano as it flies above Legaspi City before landing. Phivolcs said Mayon is in a mild state of eruption and alert level stays at level four. REM ZAMORA

Shady major heads shadowy group – AFP

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY YESTERDAY DISCREDITED AN alleged group of disgruntled officers who have threatened to resign en masse, claiming one of its leaders was a major who was discharged from service for embezzlement of funds.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said they have identified one of the two members of the Nationalist Officers Union (NOU) who gave an interview with ABS-CBN on Monday as a former major.

"As far as we know, that officer who held a press conference is a discharged major," Esperon told reporters on Thursday.

"I will not say from which branch of service. He was discharged by the Efficiency and Separation Board in 2003 for having defrauded the government of a sizeable amount," he added.

"We're studying the matter, what to do about him. But I appeal to those who are no longer in the Armed Forces not to say they are going to resign, because they have already been dismissed," Esperon added.

An official who asked not to be named said Esperon was referring to ex-Marine Maj. Josebell Pates, who was commissioned as an officer in 1979 and discharged in 2003.

Although the faces of the NOU spokesmen were not shown on television during the interview, the military was able to identify Pates from his voice, according to the official.

Marines spokesman Lt. Col. Ariel Caculitan would neither confirm nor deny whether Pates was the alleged NOU spokesman.

But he showed records of Pates' discharge by the Navy ESB in September 2003 for alleged violation of Article of War 96 or conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

A decorated combat officer, Pates was dismissed for unaccounted funds during his stint with the Marine Battalion Landing Team-4.

Former ambassador Roy Seneres told the INQUIRER yesterday that he was among the lawyers consulted by disgruntled officers about the legality of a mass resignation.

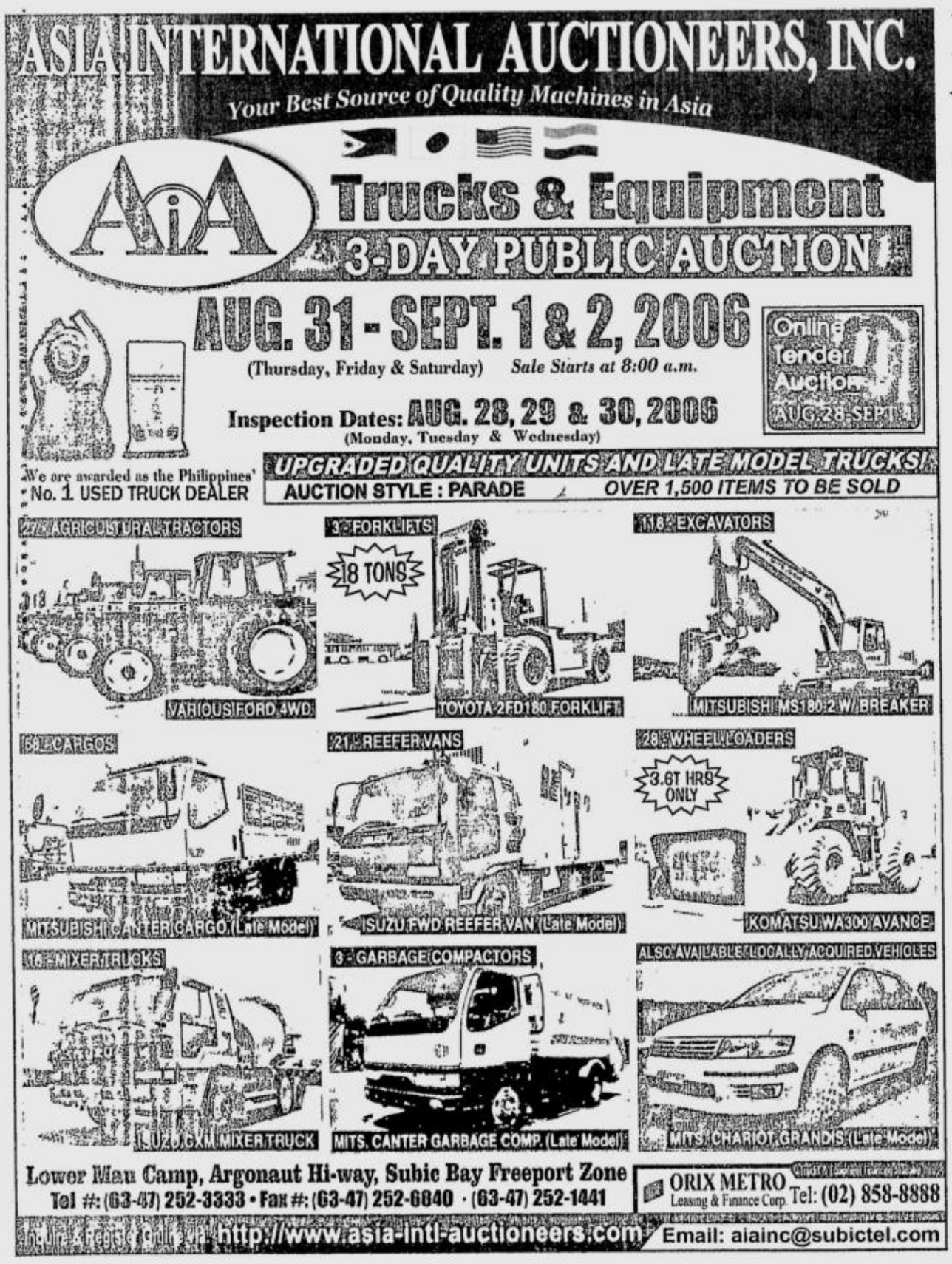
He said he did not know a certain Major Pates from among those he has met. Señeres said he had spoken with a number of these officers, which he said included generals, colonels and lieutenant colonels.

"These are real people. They are in the active service," Señeres said.

On Monday, the previously unheard of NOU threatened a mass resignation in the military and police should the House of Representatives throw out the second impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The pro-Arroyo dominated House killed the impeachment complaint on Thursday morning. But so far there have been no mass resignations.

While he refused to identify the major, Esperon said they have turned over their information to the Philippine National Police and the Department of Justice for "appropriate action."



Bishop announces meeting with poll fraud whistleblowers

By Norman Bordadora

NOVALICHES BISHOP ANTONIO TOBIAS YESterday said he would be meeting with self-confessed election document forgers Arsenio Rasalan and Clinton Colcol to discuss how they could be protected from people who want them dead following their revelations to media.

Last week at the St. Peter's Church in Quezon City, Rasalan and Colcol gave a news conference on how they forged election returns (ERs) and certificates of canvass (COCs) during the May 2004 elections.

Tobias said, however, that he won't be taking Rasalan and Colcol in his custody, like he did with Magdalo soldier 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan.

The Novaliches prelate provided sanctuary to the rebel soldier, who escaped in January and was recaptured a month later.

"I've already learned my lesson," Tobias said with a chuckle.

Rasalan and Colcol's video recorded testimony was presented in yesterday's Bishops-People's Forum organized by the Kilusang Makabayang Ekonomiya (KME).

Also shown was a video of some military officers and administration people securing ballot boxes from South Upi town in Maguindanao after the 2004 elections.

The video showed that the operation was done in the presence of a Commission on Elections officer in the area.

Tobias and fellow prelates Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez and Infanta, Quezon Bishop-Emeritus Julio Labayen are members of KME.

"We'd discuss their protection," Tobias said of his meeting with Rasalan and Colcol.

Rasalan said he helped organize and supervise the operation to create 10,000 fake ERs that would be switched with other ERs in ballot boxes at the House complex.

The fabricated ERs were needed, he said, to provide a basis for the fake COCs which in turn, would disregard the genuine ERs in the ballot boxes.

The allegedly forged COCs were reportedly the ones read during the national canvassing by Congress at the House.

Colcol, on the other hand, said he padded votes in a COC in South Upi days after the May 11 polls.

Gov't to run after abusive Lebanese employers of OFWs

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE GOVERNMENT WILL RUN AFTER ABUsive Lebanese employers of Filipino workers who were repatriated as a result of the war between Israeli and Hezbollah forces, according to Vice President Noli de Castro.

De Castro, presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and head of Task Force Lebanon, said the Department of Foreign Affairs had been authorized to hire a Lebanese lawyer to prosecute erring employers.

The move was made after the task force evaluated field reports of Philippine officials in Lebanon as well as medical reports of the Department of Health on the examined evacuees.

Some 5,696 OFWs in Lebanon have been repatriated since the start of the mandatory evacuation ordered by President Macapagal-Arroyo early this month. The number is expected to hit 5,885 at week's end.

According to the DOH report submitted to De Castro, out of 377 debriefed OFWs, two claimed they were raped while 12 said were sexually abused by their employers.

Some 80 percent of the debriefed OFWs said they were abused physically/orally, they were deprived of food and they were not paid their salaries. Some 20 percent said they were locked up during the war.

The Vice President said the task force decided to maintain the ban on the deployment of OFWs to Lebanon, as well as Alert Level 4 which calls for the mandatory repatriation of OFWs.

"It is our assessment that we have to maintain and strengthen our position to carry out the President's order to bring home the OFWs, which amounts to an act of sovereignty, in the midst of the resistance of the employers to let go of the OFWs," De Castro said.

Nene, Joker slam Malacañang move

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

NO WAY, JOSE.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and administration Sen. Joker Arroyo flatly rejected Malacañang's campaign to use the voided automated counting machines of Mega-Pacific Consortium in the 2007 elections.

Arroyo denounced Malacañang's move saying the Supreme Court "wrote finis to the irresponsible adventurism espoused by the Comelec chair" to use the ACMs when it junked a petition by President Macapagal-Arroyo's election lawyer Romulo Macalintal on Aug. 22.

Arroyo noted that in its decision, the high court cited its earlier ruling on Jan. 13, 2004 which nullified the P1.2 billion contract between the MPC and the Commission on Elections. The high court struck down Macalintal's petition saying the decision has become final and executory for well over two years and was already "immutable and unalterable."

But Malacañang is asking Congress to pass legislation allowing the use of the ACMs that have been in a Comelec warehouse since 2003.

"No way," Arroyo said. "There is a Supreme Court decision and a (Senate) blue ribbon report (declaring the contract fraudulent and calling on all Comelec commissioners to resign)."

"The Supreme Court has spoken; everybody—the Comelec, the Ombudsman, the Senate, Malacañang—are duty bound to obey and respect its decision and not subvert it," Arroyo said.

Pimentel expressed elation that the SC threw away Macalintal's bid for the use of the ACMs, saying it was one way of trying to shield MPC from its liability over the fraudulent contract.

"We cannot allow the use of these machines because if we do, we, in effect, are making it no longer possible for those who transgressed the laws of this country to pay for their crimes," Pimentel said.

In view of the SC ruling, he said it is the obligation of the Comelec to return the ACMs to MPC and recover the P1 billion it paid to the consortium.

He said the Comelec cannot use the excuse that the MPC does not want to receive the ACMs.

"It is the obligation of the government to impose its will so that a rectification of the wrongdoing done us for the benefit of the people," Pimentel said.

Pimentel said it is likely the elections next year would still be conducted under the old, manual method of voting and canvassing because Congress is yet to pass the bill providing for election automation.

The Senate is still deliberating on the automation bill principally authored by Sen. Richard Gordon. But opposition senators have called for more time to scrutinize and finalize the bill because of their distrust for the Comelec and doubts that the technology would really rule out cheating.

Small plane found off Quezon waters

By Nikko Dizon

A SUNKEN PLANE WAS DISCOVERED off the waters of Cagbalite Island in Mauban, Quezon, last Thursday.

Mauban Mayor Fernando Llamas said in a phone interview yesterday that fishermen made the discovery after their fishnets got entangled with the wreckage of a light plane.

Llamas said his office contacted the Philippine Air Force (PAF) and the Air Transportation Office (ATO) for assistance in retrieving the wreckage.

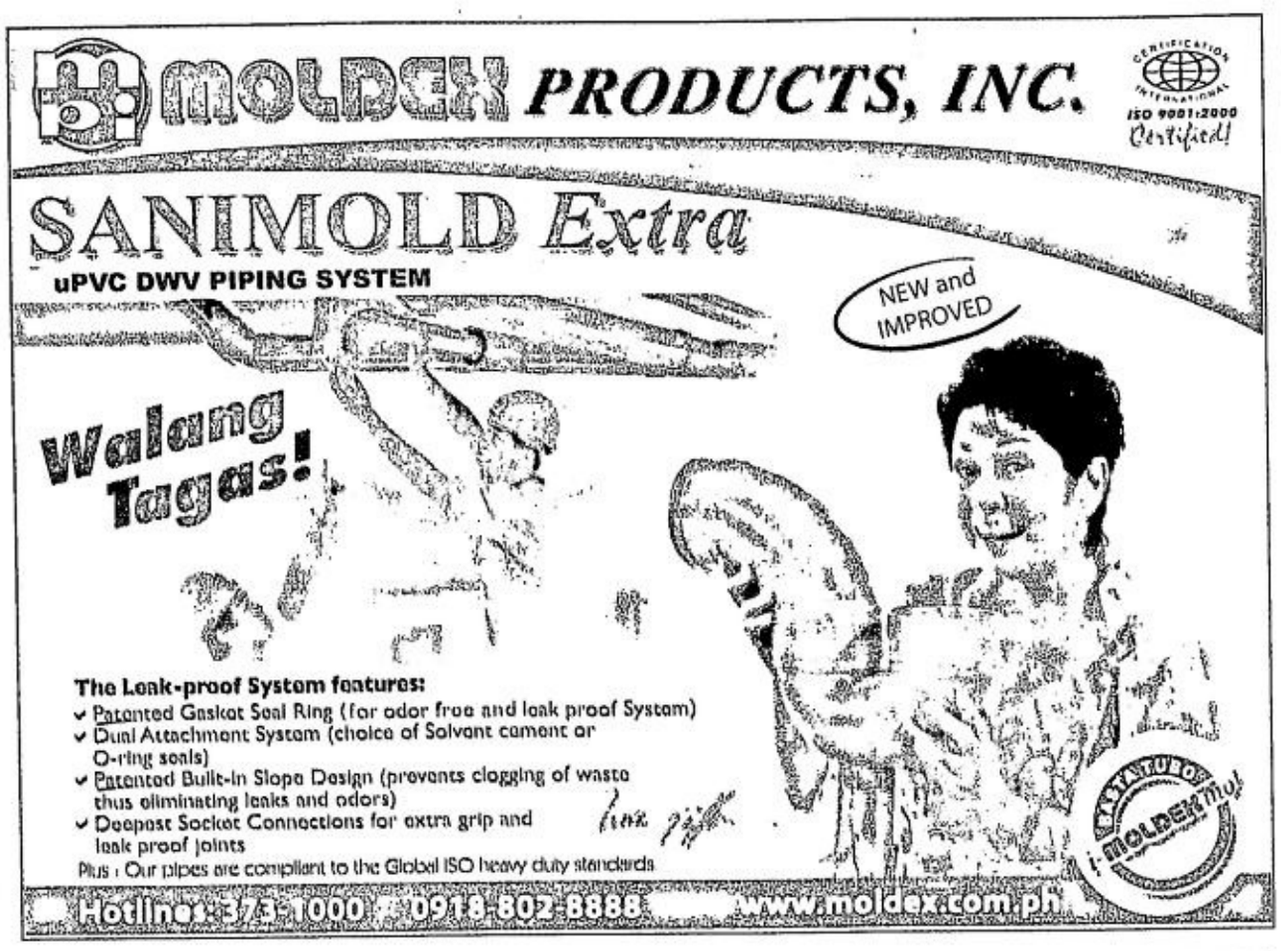
Cagbalete Island is a one-hour boat ride from Mauban town proper.

ATO chief Nilo Jatico told the INQUIRER in a separate interview that the agency's safety team was set to go to Mauban today.

"We still don't know what aircraft it is. We have some leads, however," he said.

Jatico said he would not divulge any information until the ATO had inspected the wreckage to avoid upsetting the families of pilots whose planes remain missing to this day.

"We have several missing aircraft, but until we see the wreckage, we would rather not speculate on what [plane] was discovered in Mauban," he said.



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Impeachment raps...

From page A1

"Who knows, she might fall from power soon," said the prelate who was among the private complainants in the citizen-backed impeachment complaint thrown out by a vote of 173-32.

Despite the fact that more congressmen voted in the President's favor this year compared to the 158 last year, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. also thinks the charges of corruption, political killings and other crimes will hound Ms Arroyo and will be resurrected into another impeachment case next year.

In Pimentel's reckoning, the issue is not dead.

"Impeachment has supernatural qualities. GMA pals slew it last year. It rose again this year, but they murdered it anew. Next year, it will rise again because like her shadow, the charges will dog her wherever there is light. To evade it, she has to live with Pluto in darkness throughout her public life," he said, alluding to the planet that scientists had declared was a planet no more.

He added: "It's Gloria who is condemned to live in the netherworld! She's the real loser even if her allies claim victory."

'Nakakahiya!'

With the midterm elections set in 2007, proimpeachment groups are wishing for a House of Representatives composed of more oppositionists who would vote for the transmittal of an impeachment complaint to the Senate, and a Senate whose members would be inclined to vote for Ms Arroyo's conviction.

Iñiguez said the dismissal of the impeachment case showed the caliber of the lawmakers elected to Congress.

To which Novaliches Bishop Antonio Tobias commented: *"Nakakahiya* (Shameful)!"

Asked whether he would campaign against the congressmen who had voted to kill the case, Tobias said: "Oh, yes. I will campaign against them.

"Here in Novaliches, I will definitely campaign. That Anna Rosa Susano I will make sure that she does not win again."

Susano, representative of Quezon City's second district and an administration ally, expectedly voted against the case.

Iñiguez said he would soon come up with a pastoral letter to guide the people on whom to vote for in the 2007 elections.

"But definitely, part of the criteria will be how they performed in recent political [events]," he said.

Iñiguez, Tobias and Bishop Emeritus Julio Labayen of Infanta, Quezon, are involved in an expanded bishops-people's forum to tackle what has to be done after the second consecutive dismissal of the impeachment case.

The forum organized by the Kilusang Makabayang Ekonomiya will be duplicated next week in the Visayas and Mindanao.

"What we should do now is think together, design a plan of action to bring about what we as citizens are committed to," Iñiguez said.

'Numerical might'

Pimentel said the "arbitrary dismissal" of the impeachment case would neither bring about peace and political normalcy nor end attempts to oust Ms Arroyo through legal or extralegal means.

He said the case was junked not because it was weak but only because "the accompanying hoard of evidence was too incriminating to warrant the merciless use of numerical might of the President's minions."

Pimentel said the next impeachment case would "not necessarily" be composed of old or rehashed charges, as Ms Arroyo's allies had said of the last case.

He said the charges made by Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano about alleged millions of dollars stashed in a German bank account of the President's husband and son could well be pursued next year.

"There will be no end to accusations that she and her family made hay while the sun was up," he said.

The senator also said the public would punish Ms Arroyo's allies during the 2007 elections.

He said Partido Uno, the recently launched coalition party of opposition groups, would field a complete senatorial ticket and local candidates.

"We can get at least 65 percent of the national seats considering the magnitude of the disenchantment of the people with the Arroyo [administration] because of corruption and the political killings," Pimentel said.

Palace to the defense

In what may be viewed as part of its reconciliation moves, Malacañang defended the lawmakers who voted to impeach the President last year but changed their stance this year, as well as those who chose not to vote this year.

Ms Arroyo's political adviser Gabriel Claudio said it was unfair to criticize these lawmakers for their positions.

"It was very clear where the impeachment complaint was headed from the beginning," Claudio said in a phone interview.

He said many lawmakers saw the "futility of the exercise and the harm it was doing to the country, in terms of prospects of investments, creating jobs and perking the economy."

Also, he said, the charges brought against Ms Arroyo were "rehashed," thus failing to muster sufficient support from congressmen.

"These were enough reasons for these congressmen to disengage themselves from the impeachment moves," Claudio said.

Of the 51 who voted to impeach last year, seven (Representatives Teodoro Locsin Jr., Jacinto Paras, Hans Christian Señeres, Proceso Alcala, Antonino Roman, Arthur Pingoy Jr. and Rodante Marcoleta) voted to affirm the House justice committee's Report No. 1886.

Eleven of the 51 were absent during the last vote; two others were present but did not vote.

Minority blamed

Report 1886 blamed the minority lawmakers for botching their second attempt to impeach Ms Arroyo, saying they had one year to push for an overhaul of impeachment rules that they themselves endorsed in 2005, to allow them to present their supposed evidence.

Explaining his vote, Congressman Locsin said on the floor that he was voting "yes" for the committee report because the opposition itself had "foreclosed the possibility of introducing evidence during the determination of sufficiency of substance." ***With a report from Christine O. Avendaño***

Zapped!

From page A1

zation tasked with the official naming of solar-system bodies, from planets and their satellites to comets and planetary surface features. According to the IAU's newly approved definition, a planet is "a celestial body that (a) is in orbit around the Sun, (b) has sufficient mass for its self-gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a hydrostatic equilibrium (nearly round) shape, and (c) has cleared the neighborhood around its orbit."

In other words, if an object orbits the Sun, is round, and is gravitationally the most dominant body in its orbital region, then it's a planet.

Pluto, discovered in 1930 by the American Clyde Tombaugh, meets the first two criteria but fails the last—its highly elliptical, highly tipped orbit actually overlaps with Neptune's path. Moreover, Pluto shares the outer fringes of the solar system with dozens, if not hundreds, of yet-undiscovered icy Pluto-like objects beyond Neptune, called Kuiper Belt Objects (KBOs), and is therefore disqualified.

An earlier IAU proposal, which would have increased the Sun's family from 9 to 12 (or possibly more), was soundly rejected during Thursday's voting. The three new members that would have been elevated to full planet status were Ceres, the largest asteroid; Charon, Pluto's largest moon; and 2003 UB313, a KBO more than twice as far from the Sun as Pluto and slightly larger, though not yet given a permanent name.

The need to define what is a planet was driven by technological advances enabling astronomers to look further into space and measure more precisely the size of celestial bodies.

"This is all about the advancement of science changing our thinking as we get more information," said Richard Binzel, professor of Planetary Sciences at The Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a member of the planet definition committee.

"The significance is that new discoveries and new science have told us that there is something different about Pluto from the other eight planets and as science learns more information, we get new results and new considerations."

The anti-Pluto movement gained ground after the discovery of 2003 UB313, also known unofficially as Xena, a distant object beyond Pluto's orbit. Its discoverer said 2003 UB313 was as big as Pluto and thus could lay claim to being a planet.

The long and sometimes heated debate underlined a dilemma that arose several years ago with the emergence of more powerful telescopes and computer-assisted scanning of the heavens.

These potent tools began to suggest that Pluto, far from being a solitary wanderer on the outer fringes of the Solar System, could be only one of a cloud of scattered objects at this distance from the Sun.

This realization in turn prompted questions as to whether Pluto and other largish objects could be considered planets or—simply and sadly—rocks.

While casting Pluto into, literally, the outer darkness, the IAU also tried to sugar the pill somewhat, saying Pluto was "an important prototype of a new class of trans-Neptunian objects."

British representative Michael Rowan-Robinson acknowledged that the rearrangement of the planetary hierarchy might cause deep confusion among the public.

And, he admitted, astronomers might be taken for "total idiots" because of what seemed to be an arcane debate.

But, he said, it was vital to move in line with knowledge.

"The glass (of knowledge) is filling," he said. "In a few years, there may be 40 of those new dwarves. The fact that Pluto has been demoted is not so important."

Tombaugh, at the time only 24 years old, discovered Pluto on Feb. 18, 1930.

His announcement had an enormous impact. It smashed the perceived boundaries of the Solar System, established 84 years earlier with the discovery of Neptune.

Named after the god of the underworld in classical mythology, Pluto orbits the Sun at an average distance of 5,906,380,000 km (3,670,050,000 miles), taking 247.9 Earth years to complete a single circuit.

Its orbital plane is a whole 17 degrees off the horizontal plane taken by the eight other planets. In addition, its path around the Sun is so egg-shaped that, for 20 years of its agonizingly long orbit, Pluto tracks inside the orbit of Neptune.

Pluto has three moons: Charon, discovered in 1978, and the tiny Nix and Hydra, spotted in 2005 by US astronomers using the orbiting Hubble Telescope. ***With reports from AFP, Reuters***

(Imelda Joson was the former photo editor of Sky & Telescope, an international monthly astronomy magazine based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Edwin Aguirre is an associate editor of Sky & Telescope.)

PLUTO DISCOVERER Clyde Tombaugh with his wife, Patsy, as photographed by Imelda Joson and Edwin Aguirre at their home in Las Cruces, New Mexico in 1994. Tombaugh is shown wearing the Padre Faura Astronomy Medal, which was presented by Joson and Aguirre in behalf of the Philippine Astronomical Society in recognition of Tombaugh's contributions to the advancement of astronomy. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Discoverer's widow 'shook up' over Pluto's demotion

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO—The widow of the astronomer who discovered Pluto 76 years ago says she is frustrated by the decision to strip it of its planetary status, but she adds that Clyde Tombaugh would have understood.

"I'm not heartbroken. I'm just shook up," Patricia Tombaugh, 93, said in a telephone interview Thursday from her home in Las Cruces.

Clyde Tombaugh was 24 when he discovered Pluto while working at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona, in 1930. He spent months meticulously examining images of the sky, looking for a planet observatory founder Percival Lowell theorized was affecting the orbit of Uranus. Lowell was wrong—Pluto is too small to affect giant Neptune's orbit—but Tombaugh found it anyway.

Tombaugh, who died in 1997, was the only person in the Western Hemisphere to have discovered a planet in our solar system until Thursday, when the International Astronomical Union separated it from the eight "classical planets" and lumped it in with two similarly sized "dwarf planets."

Tombaugh had fought off other attempts to relegate Pluto, but his widow said this time he probably would have endorsed the change, now that other planetary objects have been discovered in the Kuiper Belt, the belt of comets on the edge of the solar system where Pluto resides.

"He was a scientist. He would understand they had a real problem when they start finding several of these things flying around the place," Patricia Tombaugh said.

She added that her husband had been resigned to the change.

"He knew it was on the way," she said. "Before he died, they were going around and around. Of course, he was disappointed. After 75 years of seeing it one way, who wouldn't be?"

Planetary astronomers at Lowell Observatory expressed disappointment. Director Bob Millis said he preferred a rejected proposal that would have added three planets to the solar system instead of dropping Pluto.

Closing the door to additional planetary discoveries is "not exactly motivational to young planetary scientists and astronomers," Millis said.

At New Mexico State University, where Clyde Tombaugh worked from 1955-73 and founded the research astronomy department, the news about Pluto was received somewhat glumly.

"To come up with a new classification shows science is not static. It's good to show that to the world," said Jim Murphy, an associate professor and department head. "I suppose our reaction is more emotional. I don't want anyone to think anything less of the discovery by Clyde Tombaugh in 1930."

Tombaugh's legacy is visible across Las Cruces, where an observatory, a campus street and an elementary school bear his name.

Murphy said Tombaugh's discovery was ahead of its time because it took 60 years for stronger telescopes to locate another object with an unusual orbit like Pluto's, and 73 years before scientists discovered a bigger object in the area.

He said the declaration won't change Pluto's importance to science.

"Pluto didn't cease to exist," Murphy said. "It didn't lose or gain any atoms. Its physical characteristics haven't changed a bit because of this. It already was perceived to be a member of a larger group of objects." ***AP***

Corrections

IN THE AUG. 24 ISSUE, an Entertainment story—"A million-dollar pledge"—misstated that a meeting was held between the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) and Bigfoot Group of Companies chair Michael Gleissner. Bigfoot Entertainment Chief Executive Officer Kacy Andrews attended the meeting—not Gleissner.

* * *

THE STORY "Cops told: Get 17 suspects by Sept. 31" on Aug. 25 misstated the number of days in the month. There are only 30 days in September.

* * *

IN THE AUG. 25 issue, a photo caption published in the centerfold of Pages A10 and A11 misstated that Dr. Josette Biyo was the person sitting on the left. In the picture, Dr. Biyo is shown seated on the right.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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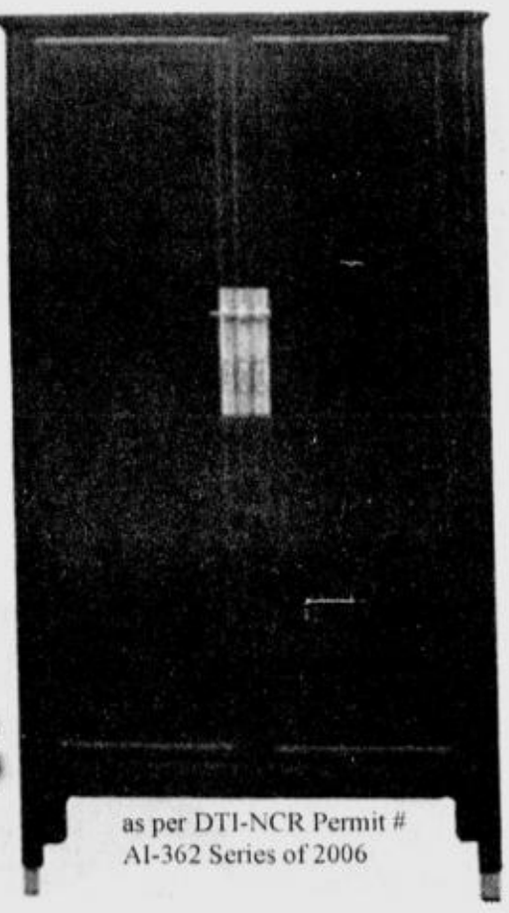

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Widow of 'Pedro Penduko' creator cries foul

FILOMENA Coching says all she wants is for younger generations to know her husband Koko's work.
ROGER MARGALLO

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

"IT'S UNFAIR," SAYS FILOMENA Coching, widow of Francisco V. Coching, creator of the *komiks* classic "Pedro Penduko."

She is bewailing the fact that her husband's name is not included in the TV advertisements for the new ABS-CBN show, "Komiks Presents: Da Adventures of Pedro Penduko," scheduled to premiere on Sept. 9.

The oversight is glaring, Ms Coching says, considering her late husband's stature as "dean of *komiks* novelists."

Pablo S. Gomez, another veteran novelist—and whose "Kampanerang Kuba" was recently serialized on ABS-CBN—acknowledges that Coching is among the "Big Four" in the *komiks* industry, along with Mars Ravelo, creator of "Darna"; Clodualdo del Mundo Sr., "Prinsipe Amante"; and Tony Velasquez, "Kenkoy."

"Darna" bore Ravelo's name when it was serialized on GMA 7. "Kampanera" carried above-the-title billing for Gomez as well.

Coching, who died in 1998, had written and illustrated about 60 novels, with at least 51 making it to the silver screen.

Apart from "Penduko," Coching's most famous work is "Hagibis," the Filipino version of "Tarzan," which ran from 1947 to 1950 in Liwayway magazine.

"Hagibis" was made into a movie by Royal Production in 1950. It starred Fernando Poe Sr., Erlinda Cortez and Rolando Liwanag.

Coching also created "Satur," which topbilled Manuel Conde in an LVN movie in 1951, and "Talipandas," which starred Rita Gomez in a Sampaguita film in 1958.

"Penduko," which also ran in Liwayway in 1954, had four film versions.

"In all those movies, my husband was credited as author," Ms Coching, 82, points out.

The first "Penduko" movie starred Efren Reyes and Edna Luna and was produced in 1954 by People's Picture, under the direction of National Artist for Film Gerardo de Leon.

In the 1970s, the role was portrayed by Ramon Zamora. In 1994 and 2000, Janno Gibbs played Penduko in two versions produced by Viva Films.

The novel's small-screen incarnation now stars Matt Evans, one of the evicted housemates in the "Pinoy Big Brother Teen Edition."

Pedro Penduko, who is aided by a magical *anting-anting* (amulet), is described by Coching's widow as a "slightly dim, but good-natured lad who loves helping other people."

"My husband made use of Filipino folklore and his own imagination in coming up with his stories," she recalls.

When ABS-CBN was conceptualizing a "Penduko" series, network representatives approached the Coching family, according to her. "But we found out that, by virtue of our most recent contract with Viva, we no longer owned either the story or the title 'Pedro Penduko.' So the network negotiated with Viva instead."

Ms Coching hoped that the new show would revive interest in her husband's work, but she saw that the TV ads didn't even mention his name.

When she complained to Viva, she was assured that the network would put Coching's name in the credits once the show starts its run. Meanwhile, she sighs, her husband—who was nominated for National Artist four times— goes unrecognized, except for a single mention in a press release just over a week ago about the contract signing between Viva and ABS-CBN.

Cendaña, former Marcos information minister, dies

CENDAÑA

FORMER INFORMation Minister Gregorio Cendaña died early yesterday, according to his son, he was 76.

Interviewed over GMA Network's radio station dzBB, Julius Cendaña said his father had been experiencing shortness of breath, a complication of his diabetes.

Cendaña, who was information minister for the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, died Friday at about 8 a.m. at the Philippine Heart Center in Quezon City, a radio dzBB report said.

Will 'Queen of Talk' come and visit RP?

By Tarra V. Quismundo

WILL THE "QUEEN OF TALK" FLY HALFWAY around the world to the Philippines for the sake of the child?

The US talk show host and media mogul Oprah Winfrey is among the several international global child welfare advocates invited to speak at an international conference on child protection and welfare in September 2007, the first time it will be held in the country.

Organizers of the 7th Asian Regional Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect have sent a letter to Winfrey to seek her participation in the conference, a biennial event of the 29-year-old International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN).

The host organization, the Child Protection Unit Network (CPU-Net), said it has twice sent an invitation to Winfrey's Chicago address, the first time last June and again this month, to address the plenary on the topic, "Surviving Child Abuse."

"We know this is a shot in the dark," Bernadette Madrid, CPU-Net executive director, said in her letter to Winfrey.

CPU-Net is a national group of women lawyers, doctors and social workers that train child protection professionals, prosecute offenders and contribute to government policy on child abuse. At the close of 2005, the network listed 52 individual members and 19 member institutions.

"The Philippines is a country not often discussed other than [as] a provider of nurses, domestic helpers and trafficked humans. We hope, however, that you will accept our invitation and join us in protecting our children. We have great beaches, great food and great hospitality too," the letter said.

The organization is still waiting for a reply from the 52-year-old Winfrey, who has publicly spoken of her own experience as a victim of child abuse while growing up in a poor Milwaukee neighborhood.

An advocate for the world's disadvantaged children, Winfrey has traveled several times to Africa to reach out to young children living in poverty-stricken communities all over the continent.

"Africa has always been her interest but this time, we hope to bring her to the Philippines," said lawyer Katrina Legarda, CPU-Net legal consultant and organizing committee chair.

The organization has lined up other speakers for the conference, including doctors, law enforcers and media practitioners.

"Ako Para sa Bata (I am For the Child)" is the theme of the regional conference that aims to gather 500 participants from around Asia, the United States and Europe, including social workers, psychologists, lawyers, doctors and law enforcers. The conference will be held at the Philippine Plaza Hotel at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex from Sept. 23 to 26, 2007.

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Maoi Arroyo of Hybridigm Consulting, Inc.

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FG trip raises questions, says Cayetano

By Michael Lim Ubac

HOUSE DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER ALAN PEter Cayetano yesterday warned that First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo had a lot of explaining to do upon his return from Germany since the trip came following the House dismissal of the impeachment against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Why only now when the complaint was junked already? Obviously his trip raises more questions than answers," said Cayetano.

After 17 hours of debate and voting, 173 administration allies upheld early Thursday the earlier decision of the House justice committee to kill the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo for lack of substance.

Nevertheless, Cayetano wished Arroyo a "happy and relaxing trip to wonderland."

Saying he was on a "mission of truth," Arroyo left Manila for Munich and Frankfurt on Thursday night to disprove the existence of a multimillion-dollar bank account allegedly in his name in HypoVereinsbank.

He was accompanied by his lawyers Jesus Santos and Romeo Macalintal.

FIRST GENTLEMAN Mike Arroyo talks to the media before boarding plane to Germany Thursday night. Behind is his younger brother, Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo. JESS YUSON

Cayetano, who disclosed the existence of the alleged account, refused to go with Arroyo and refused to accept the plane ticket personally delivered to him by Santos in the House of Representatives Tuesday.

"Why go there? It's a trip to wonderland because any certification he comes home with will leave people wondering and questioning," said Cayetano.

He explained that the proper proper way to do it was for the First Family to issue a waiver which would "allow the examination of all local and international accounts, if any, in their name or for their benefit."

Cayetano said he would only go with Arroyo to San Francisco, California, to check on the latter's 24-unit apartment building, or to Makati and Caloocan cities to inspect the First Gentleman's undeclared properties.

At the height of the impeachment hearings of the House justice committee last week, Cayetano had claimed that a member of the First Family held a special trust account in one of the bank's branches in Germany.

Bolante is going after US investor's visa, says UP lawyer

BOLANTE

By Alcuin Papa

A LAWYER OPPOSING THE UNITED STATES asylum bid of former Agriculture undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante believes the controversial ex-official could be going for a US investor's visa.

Once in possession of an investor's visa, Bolante would be free to walk out of jail, stay in the US and avoid prosecution in the Philippines, said lawyer Harry Roque.

Roque said this suspicion was triggered by a statement from Bolante's lawyer that the alleged fertilizer scam was "not germane to the immigration relief" that Bolante was seeking.

"This would imply that contrary to earlier reports and popular belief, Bolante may not be asking for asylum. Instead he may be asking for an adjustment of status because of an approved application for immigrant visa, which in any case could only be an investor's visa," he said in an interview.

Roque explained that under US law, an alien may be granted conditional residency by investing from $500,000 to $1 million in an employment target area which would create jobs for at least 10 people in the region where the investment was being made.

"This could explain why his lawyer stated that the controversy surrounding him has no relevance to his immigration petition," he said.

Roque, a University of the Philippines law professor, argued that while the commission of a heinous crime such as plunder and being a fugitive from a Senate warrant of arrest may seem "not germane" to a change in immigration status, US laws still required that there not be any "grounds for inadmissibility" of his application.

"Assuming US laws to be the same as Philippine law, the pendency of the criminal complaints and the Senate warrant of arrest which makes him [Bolante] a fugitive should be grounds for inadmissibility," Roque said.

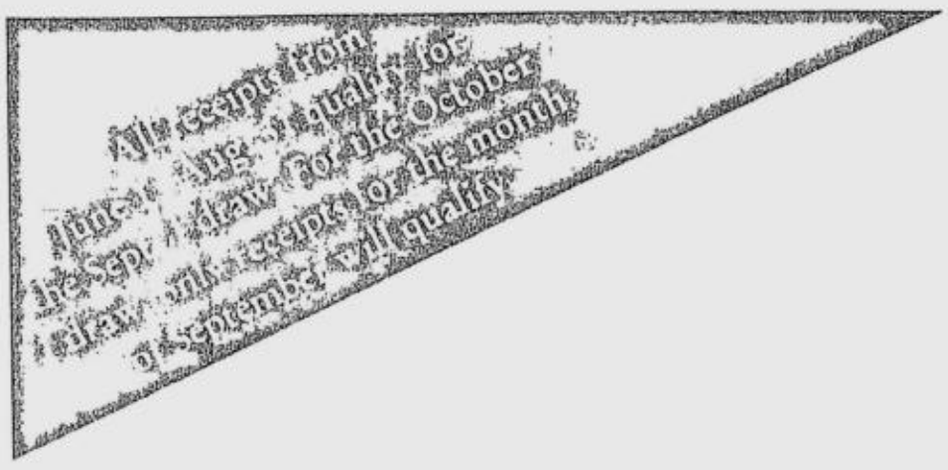
Bolante, who is wanted by the Senate to answer allegations that he used some P2.8 billion in fertilizer funds to help ensure the victory of President Macapagal-Arroyo in the 2004 elections, was arrested at the Los Angeles International Airport on July 7 for carrying a canceled B1/B2 visa. The reason for the visa cancelation remains a mystery.

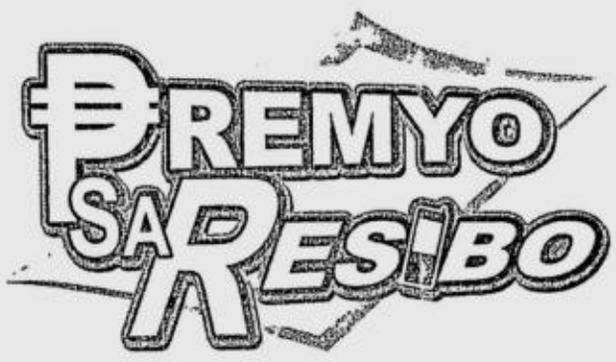
He was detained at the San Pedro Detention Center on Terminal Island, 48 km from Los Angeles, before being granted a request to have the case transferred to Chicago on Aug. 2.

Roque said it was imperative that the Ombudsman's Office file charges against Bolante so there would be grounds for the US to reject his application for immigration relief.

Until charges are filed against Bolante, his lawyers can claim there are no pending criminal cases in the Philippines against him, Roque said.

And the lack of any charges would allow Bolante's lawyers to prove he "does not suffer from any grounds of inadmissibility" and be granted a visa to stay in the US, he said.





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Saturday, August 26, 2006
20th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ezk 43:1-7
Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12

Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees sat on the seat of Moses. So you shall do and observe all they say, but do not do as they do, for they do not do what they say. They tie up heavy burdens and load them on the shoulders of the people, but they do not even raise a finger to move them. They do everything in order to be seen by people; so they wear very wide bands of the Law around their foreheads, and robes with large tassels. They enjoy the first place at feasts and reserved seats in the synagogues, and being greeted in the marketplace and being called 'Master' by the people.

But you, do not let yourselves be called Master because you have only one Master, and all of you are brothers and sisters. Neither should you call anyone on earth Father, because you have only one Father, he who is in heaven. Nor should you be called leader, because Christ is the only leader for you. Let the greatest among you be the servant of all. For whoever makes himself great shall be humbled, and whoever humbles himself shall be made great."

Commentary

The glory of the Lord returns to the temple and Ezekiel lies prone before the power as it enters. And the words he hears are of homecoming: "This is where I will set the soles of my feet; here I will dwell among the Israelites forever." And it is Jesus who has set the soles of his feet upon the earth, dwelling with us, and calling us to observe the law that has been given, but not to imitate the actions of those who lead; yet disobey the laws they teach. Jesus, the Word (scriptures) is our teacher and we are called to serve as he served us.

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Nat'l calamity declared

From page A1

"Efforts in containing and preventing the spread of the oil spill will not be in Guimaras alone but also in the other areas affected," Andaya told the INQUIRER on the phone.

He said he would join Ms Arroyo today on a trip to Guimaras, where officials would assess the situation and the necessary fund assistance.

Tanker located

The President told the convention participants that the sunken MT Solar I had been located.

The tanker was loaded with 2 million liters of bunker fuel belonging to Petron and was on its way to Zamboanga when it sank off Guimaras Island on Aug. 11. Over 200,000 liters of the oil have spilled, killing marine resources as well as the livelihood of coastal residents.

Petron had earlier commissioned Fukada Salvage and Marine Works to locate the sunken tanker. The Japanese vessel, Shinsei Maru, has a remote-operated vehicle that can go down to 2,000 meters.

Ms Arroyo said task forces would work with the private sector, "including the media and the maritime industry," for the collection of human hair and chicken feathers to help mop up the spill.

Andaya said that while the owner of the MT Solar I, Sunshine Maritime Development Corp., would be responsible for much of the expenses, the national government would also release funds to address the disaster.

So far, the government has advanced P20 million to the provincial disaster coordinating councils of Guimaras, Negros Occidental and Iloilo to augment their funds for the cleanup.

On Tuesday, Ms Arroyo formed Task Force Guimaras to oversee the cleanup and the retrieval of remaining oil from the sunken tanker.

National gov't funds

Asked why the President declared a state of national calamity when the oil spill had affected only Western Visayas, Tourism Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano said this was a "justification to use the national government resources to address the calamity."

Said Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez: "It is a state of national calamity because of the ramifications of the oil spill which cannot be determined at this time. For as long as the vessel is under sea and we have not re-floated [it] or siphoned out the contents, the bigger disaster can still happen." Gonzalez said the use of national government funds was in the form of an advance because these would be charged to Petron and the owner of the tanker.

The Special Board of Marine Inquiry (SBMI) has learned that the captain and crew members of the MT Solar I had expired certifications on tanker operation and familiarization.

It also discovered that the tanker was allowed to have only 16 personnel on board, but was carrying 20 people when it sank. It carried only 19 life jackets, one short for the number of people aboard.

The tanker also had an expired interim document of compliance. The document is issued to show compliance with the code for the safe operation of ships and pollution prevention.

In its initial report released yesterday, the SBMI learned that the tanker captain, Norberto Aguro, carried expired certificates in General Tanker Familiarization and Advance Training on Chemical Tanker Operations, and had no training in specialized oil tanker operations, in violation of a Marina memorandum.

Aguro's two certificates expired on March 6, 2002. The SBMI also asked the Marina to require him to explain why he had served aboard the tanker despite his deficient requirements.

Also possessing expired General Tanker Familiarization certificates were radioman Herminio Renger, pumpman Jesse Angel and oilers Reynaldo Torio and Victor Morados, one of the missing crew members.

Chronology

The 11-member SBMI was formed on Aug. 23 to look into the sinking of the MT Solar I and determine culpability. It is headed by Rear Admiral Danilo Abinoja of the Philippine Coast Guard.

This was what the SBMI found in its initial investigation:

The tanker first sought shelter at the anchorage area of Iloilo when it began leaning on its right side during the voyage.

Inspection revealed that the air ventilation was damaged and that the locker room, fresh water tank and an adjacent compartment were flooded with sea water.

The crew pumped out the sea water and repaired the air ventilation, but the tanker was unable to drop anchor in Iloilo because of a defective windlass.

The tanker resumed its voyage, but was pounded by big waves after passing Guimaras. The waves caused it to continue leaning on its right side, eventually forcing Aguro to tell the crew to abandon ship.

Sixteen crew members and two cargo surveyors made it to the life raft and to the shore of Nueva Valencia in Guimaras, but crew members Victor Morados and Art Ian Nabua did not.

Morados went back to the engine room shortly before the ship sank; Nabua failed to jump overboard when his life raft got entangled with the deck fittings. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño in Manila; Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas*

8.9 M signatures sent ...

From page A1

of the Philippines yesterday filed before the Comelec a people's initiative petition calling for amendments to the Constitution to change the country's form of government into a unicameral parliamentary system.

A festive atmosphere, complete with confetti, fireworks, an Ati-Atihan troupe and a band, greeted the arrival of the petitioners with their documents. About 500 people, mainly students and members of youth groups in Manila, gathered in front of the Comelec to cheer them on.

Officials of the Comelec's law department, headed by Director Alioden Dalaig, received the 13-page petition at exactly 3:51 p.m. A receiving area had been set up at the lobby of the Palacio del Gobernador for the petitioners and their prominent supporters.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and a group of governors, including Eduardo Joson of Nueva Ecija, Luis Villafuerte of Camarines Sur and Enrique Garcia of Bataan, were some of those gathered at the Comelec lobby.

Sigaw ng Bayan leader Raul Lambino said election officers had verified more than 6 million signatures, representing 14 percent of the country's registered voters, or more than the 12 percent nationwide and 3 percent per legislative district required by the Constitution.

Documents in 200 boxes

The documents that Lambino and Ulap president, Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, brought were contained in 200 boxes, according to Sigaw ng Bayan lawyer Alberto Agra.

Alioden said the receiving of the petition and the annexes containing signatures and verification reports of the election officers was only "ministerial."

He said his department, after checking the documents and determining that they are in order, would forward them "as soon as possible" to the Comelec en banc.

"What we'll do is to transmit these documents after evaluation, we don't know how the commissioners will act on this," he told reporters.

James Arthur Jimenez, chief of the Comelec education and information department, said the agency was treating the documents as a "submission" and not as a formal petition because of the Supreme Court ruling that there is no enabling law on the people's initiative.

In a 1997 decision, the Supreme Court permanently barred the Comelec from acting on initiative petitions because the law on the system of initiatives to amend the Constitution, or Republic Act No. 7735, was inadequate.

Lambino called on the Comelec to act quickly on the petition but he admitted that it was inevitable that the initiative issue would go to the Supreme Court.

"The Filipino people have already spoken, and we call on [Comelec] to immediately act on the petition so that the people's initiative be given due course," said Lito Lorenzana, chair of the Charter Change Advocacy Commission.

Lorenzana lashed out at "elitist groups" that he said were refusing to let the people exercise their right to change the Constitution. He said the initiative petitions would withstand all legal challenges.

Plebiscite early next year

"They (the anti-Cha-cha groups) are questioning the legitimacy of the initiative claiming there is no enabling law or sufficient decree that covers such an exercise of sovereignty. But who could question a moral and spontaneous surge of collective action that goes beyond the legal boundaries? Do we have to remind them that sovereignty resides in the people, from who all powers of the state emanate?" he said.

In the absence of legal suits that may delay the proceedings, Lambino said that in 120 to 150 days, possibly in mid-December or early January, a plebiscite could be held to approve the proposed amendments.

Reminded that the Comelec would be in the midst of preparing for the 2007 elections, he said the plebiscite was "more important than any other electoral exercise."

Malacañang, aware that it has other options to bring about its desired changes to the Charter, is content to wait in the sidelines while Sigaw ng Bayan goes about its business.

The Palace supports both the people's initiative as well as the House bid to amend the Constitution by way of a constituent assembly, said Gabriel Claudio, President Macapagal-Arroyo's political adviser.

'Best and fastest'

Claudio stressed that Malacañang has confined its role in promoting Charter change solely to its advocacy commission.

At best, the Palace hopes that "what will work best and what will work fastest" between the two Charter change modes will be realized, he said.

Claudio acknowledged that the Charter change advocates were "racing against time" with the Comelec and legislators running for reelection preparing for the 2007 mid-term elections.

With the people's initiative before the Comelec, Claudio said the country could be facing a "unique situation" where the Comelec may be faced with two petitions seeking to push for Charter change through a plebiscite by two different modes of amending the Constitution.

That is, if the House majority finally succeeds in getting approval for a resolution seeking to convene Congress into a constituent assembly.

"One might have to give way to the other because it would not be practical for Comelec to be saddled with two petitions for amendment of the Charter," Claudio said.

But "one mode can be a back-up for the other" so it was important for Comelec to respond to the petitions, he said.

Former President Ramos, a longtime advocate of Charter change and for a shift to the parliamentary system, said Cha-cha "must be moved forward by all those in authority who are proponents of constitutional reform and those in civil society like myself who have long been espousing constitutional reform."

He said the people may not "appreciate all of the legal arguments" for and against constitutional change.

"But certainly they would be happy if there is more performance on the ground that is visible to the laymen," Ramos said.

"I think the best argument is performance, still performance, and performance and better performance because that is what people are really interested in," Ramos said.

Atienza urged the Comelec to seriously review the petition for a plebiscite, saying it complied with the requirement of the law.

Initiative failed in San Juan

"While we expect the Comelec to be besieged as well with petitions opposing the call for a plebiscite, we hope the Comelec will weigh seriously the determination displayed by these voters who signed the petition for a plebiscite and their aspirations for a better life," he said.

San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito yesterday said the proponents of the people's initiative failed to secure the required number of signatures in his town.

Ejercito, a son of jailed ex-President Estrada, said only 1,149 of the 67,996 registered voters in San Juan, an opposition bailiwick, favored the proposed shift to a parliamentary system.

With reports from Christine Avendaño, Edson Tandoc Jr., Tina G. Santos and Nikko Dizon

Regime that sits ...

From page A1

The most important arena for separatists and leftists is not the military but the socio-political front, where they have scored tremendous gains over the years. The battlefield is in the hearts and minds of the people, not in the barangays where Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan is busy searching for his elusive enemies.

Counterinsurgency is about good governance, economic development and correct identification of the enemies, not press releases or cheap gimmickry.

For instance, President Macapagal-Arroyo has infused an additional P1 billion into the antiterrorism campaign as if the more than P100-billion security budget this year was not enough. Palparan promised to suppress insurgency in Central Luzon before his term ends—next month.

Clearly, those who anticipated spectacular battlefield victories were, and still are, not familiar with the way the enemies operate and will undoubtedly be disappointed.

The late Joe Crisol, a military thinker, said that the military officer today must be prepared "not merely to wage the battle against martial threats to the state, but also to wage the struggle for peace with the weapons of persuasion, compassion and good example."

"He must strive to push development as the basis for stability ... For no regime that sits on bayonets can long endure without getting impaled on them," he said.

Aggravating this problem is the pervasive culture of favoritism and patronage, now with a different name to mask its demoralizing effects: "revolving door policy." This has created a serious logjam in the upper echelon of command that has further fueled restiveness in the military.

The military also suffers from a serious shortage of qualified NCOs and small unit leaders due to unjustified expansion and decline of combat and administrative training which, in turn, contributed to the breakdown of morale and discipline.

Troops often without basic needs

Troops often operate without most of the basic needs because of graft and corruption, patronage and favoritism. Personal contacts and bribery are resorted to to obtain crucial food and medical supplies, weapons, bullets, quartermaster items, transportation and communication equipment.

On June 14, 1995, the military leadership offered to restructure the armed services and modernize it into a lean, mean and highly professional force over 15 to 22 years at the cost of P585.949 billion. Congress shelved it for lack of funds.

The proposal included:

- The creation of task-force type Rapid Development Force built around three Army regular infantry divisions and tactical units of the Air Force and Navy.
- The improvement of the Reserve Force built around eight readily mobilizable reserve Infantry Divisions, whose nucleus will be provided by eight Infantry Brigades.
- A 25-percent reduction of the AFP troop strength from 126,686 to 95,000.

Unified commands

The Unified Commands were to be deactivated and can only be activated in times of national emergencies. The reorganization would have resulted in huge budgetary savings.

The Army would have been restructured by reducing the then nine Infantry Divisions to three, with eight Infantry Brigades instead of the present 27; the Special Forces Regiment and the First Scout Ranger Regiment merged into a Special Operations Command; the Five Engineer Brigades to three; and Service Support Units from six to five.

The reorganization would have resulted in the reduction of the Army troop strength from the present 81,533 to 53,342.

The Air Force would have been restructured into five principal functional commands (Air Defense, Tactical Operations, Logistics, Training and Reserve) and 10 separate and support units.

The Air Force strength after the reorganization would be cut from 18,223 to 16,006.

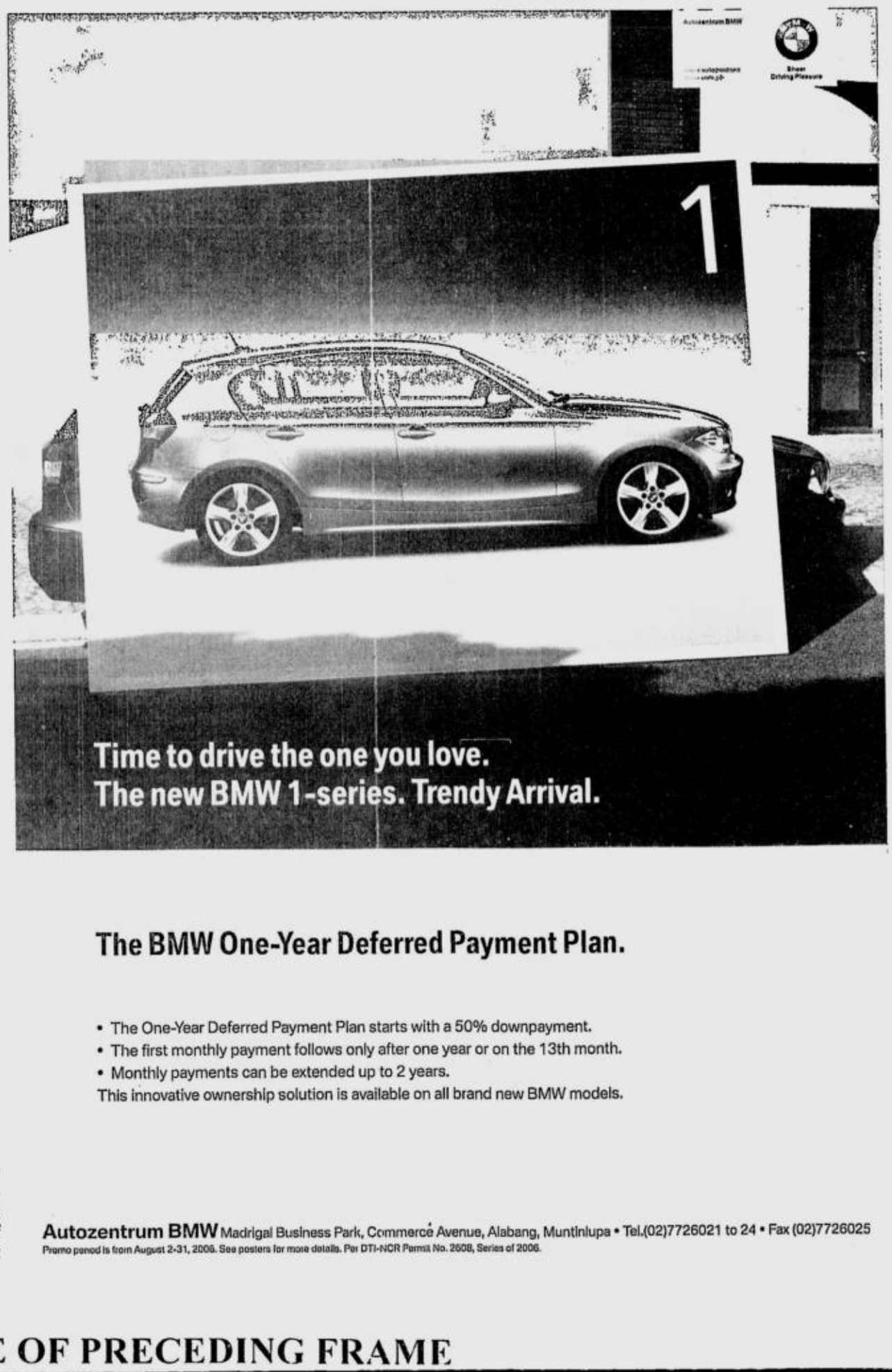
Navy restructuring

The Navy would have been restructured from the present six Naval Districts to four Naval Operating Forces Commands; reduce the strength of the Philippine Marines by deactivating one Marine company per brigade; trim down the naval separate and support units from 12 to 11; decrease the staff of headquarters Navy from 11 to 10 of the coordinating staff and from 21 to 14 the special, technical and personal staff.

The reorganization would have slightly reduced the naval strength from the present 25,814 to 24,536, which was similar to the Air Force.

The GHQ's acquisition of equipment would enable the National Command Center and the commander in chief to directly control units in the field in time of crisis. Acquisition of facilities and equipment for health services was also given priority. Total equipment outlays amounted to P10.62 billion over 15 years—P3.85 billion for the first five years.

The principal equipment to be acquired for the Army are 48 105mm howitzers, 108 armored personnel carriers and 97 command vehicles for P39.646 billion over 15 years of which P6.505 billion will be used for the first five years.



RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

THE PRESIDENT and her men, (from left) Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, Vice President Noli de Castro and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza dig in at the Luneta for the Green Philippine Highways project. Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes (beside Atienza) smiles for the camera. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

BUT WHILE volunteers in Baguio and Benguet were engaged in their own tree-planting activity, the roar of this woodcarver's saw serves to provide dramatic irony. VINCENT CABREZA / NORTHERN LUZON

PRECIOUS LIFE is planted in the soil on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

Thousands plant trees, but cutting continues

From page A1

Park in Manila. Joining her were Vice President Noli de Castro, Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

"We planted trees all over the archipelago, the biggest number of trees planted at one time in the history of the world," Ms Arroyo said hours later in Cebu City where she attended a convention of prosecutors.

World record

"We would probably make the Guinness World Records for that," she added.

The world record for the most number of trees planted in one day is held by a group of 300 people who planted 80,244 trees in Nagapattiman District in Tamil, Nadu in India.

Reyes told reporters that the tree-planting was not a government project alone because the participants included those from the private sector, nongovernment organizations and the youth.

"For so long a time that we have been divided by issues that polarize the people. Now is the time to identify causes that unite and which we can rally around," he said.

Northern Luzon

In Benguet, more than 100 small-scale miners left their tunnels in Tuba to plant trees along a 2-km stretch of Kennon Road.

Lomino Kaniteng, president of the Benguet Federation of Small Scale Miners, said his group declared a holiday to allow its members to join the GPH project.

Around 15,000 volunteers committed to plant 26,000 pine saplings along the major highways leading to Baguio City.

Some volunteers were also forced to plant trees beside a major landslide on Marcos Highway.

Church bells, sirens

In Ilocos Norte, church bells pealed while sirens blared at 10 a.m. from Badoc to Pagudpud towns, signaling the start of the simultaneous national tree planting.

Juan de los Reyes, provincial DENR chief, said at least 10,000 seedlings were planted along a 74-km stretch of the national road from Badoc to Pagudpud.

"In minutes, all the seedlings were planted," De los Reyes said.

In Nueva Vizcaya, about 2,000 participants from various sectors planted about 4,000 saplings of banaba, gmelina, narra, yakal, mahogany and acacia along the national highway from the towns of Sta. Fe to Diadi.

In Quirino, about 70 km of roadsides were planted with various species of trees by about 4,000 participants along the national highway.

"We admit that no (DENR) funds were allotted for this, but we don't need that if we have the cooperation and involvement of various agencies and sectors," said provincial environment official Wilfredo Malvar.

In Cagayan, a Mass started off the tree planting that covered the highways in the towns of Sanchez Mira, Claveria, Pamplona, Sta. Praxedes and Enrile and the capital Tuguegarao City.

In Isabela, provincial environment and natural resources officer Felix Taguba said at least 6,500 mahogany and gmelina seedlings and ornamental plants were planted along the province's highway shoulders.

Clarence Baguilat, DENR director for Cagayan Valley, said at least 193 km of highway shoulders in Nueva Vizcaya, Isabela, Quirino and Cagayan were planted with different tree seedlings.

In Pangasinan, volunteers in Urdaneta City planted trees not only along the national highway but on village roadsides and idle lots.

Central Luzon

In Central Luzon, students, soldiers and workers of the Trust International Paper Corp. (Tipco) planted trees along various stretches of the North Luzon Expressway and MacArthur Highway from Pampanga to Tarlac.

Regidor de Leon, DENR director in Central Luzon, said 71,000 saplings were planted in the region. He said more than 100,000 volunteers planted trees in Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Bataan, Bulacan and Pampanga.

In Nueva Ecija, more than 10,000 people participated in the activity that covered 42 km of the national highway. Joselito Blanco, environment officer of south Nueva Ecija, said more than 30,000 seedlings provided by the Philippine Wood Products Association were planted.

The DENR gave the participants free snacks of biscuits and juice. Brass bands on trucks provided music as they patrolled the highway.

Southern Luzon

In Quezon, journalists and girl scouts planted tree seedlings, mainly narra, along the Maharlika Highway.

"In this noble endeavor, media workers should play an active part and not just remain in the background observing the event," said Arnel Avila, head of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines chapter in Quezon.

In Sorsogon, more than 10,000 people formed a human chain from Pilar to Matnog, the tip of Southern Luzon, for the tree planting.

Gov. Raul Lee and Sorsogon City Mayor Sally Lee led the participants in planting pili seedlings.

About 1,500 students, teachers and government employees joined the greening project in Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur and Oriental Mindoro.

About 50,000 ornamental plant cuttings and tree seedlings were planted along the 128-km Republic Nautical Highway. The plants consisted of santan, yellow bell, bougainvillea, golden duranta, white angel and Doña Aurora.

The tree seedlings included ylang-ylang and caballero which came from the DENR nursery.

More than 17,000 volunteers showed up for the tree-planting at the South Luzon Expressway (SLEx) in Laguna and Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (Star) Tollway in Batangas.

Antonio Principe, DENR director for Calabarzon, said, however, only 30 percent, or about 7 km of the 22-km SLEx from Alabang to Calamba City, was planted with trees.

He said like SLEx, most portions of the highways in Calabarzon were already planted with mature trees.

In Star Tollway, almost 44 km were planted with acacia seedlings, he said.

Eastern Visayas

From Samar Island to Panay Island, thousands of volunteers participated in the tree-planting. With holes already prepared as early as last week, the participants had an easy task of planting trees along the portion of the Pan-Philippine Highway in Eastern Visayas.

More than 60,000 seedlings of indigenous forest trees and ornamental species were planted, according to Purificacion Daloos, information officer of the DENR in Eastern Visayas.

Also planted with trees were the roadsides going to Eastern Samar, Biliran and Leyte that were not part of the Pan-Philippine Highway.

On Negros Island, about 60,000 schoolchildren lined 115 km from Bacolod City to the border between Kabankalan town in Negros Occidental and Mabinay in Negros Oriental to plant trees.

They planted 5,000 mahogany, gmelina, Indian and neem tree seedlings.

In Cebu City, tree saplings were planted along the 2-km portion of the national road leading to Talisay City in the south and at Lapulapu City on Mactan Island.

Mindanao

In Zamboanga City, Reynerio Ramos, manager of the Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, said they would cut the trees planted along the highway if these would later pose a threat to the safety of transmission lines and of the people.

"We will keep on cutting trees for as long as they are in the highways and prone to any accidents or disasters," he said.

But Ernesto Adobo, Western Mindanao environment chief, said the trees planted along the national highway do not pose threat to the safety of Zamcelco's power lines.

In Sultan sa Barongis, a flood-prone town in Maguindanao, residents took part in the tree-planting activity with seeds provided by the Department of Agriculture.

In Caraga, the DENR said it failed in its bid to break the Guinness record for longest human chain during the GPH launching after residents failed to connect their hands in isolated areas of the highway in the region.

Carlito Vertudez, Agusan del Sur environment official, said many people failed to show up to connect the human chain.

Local officials of the seven highway towns of the timber-rich province led the long line of people mostly schoolchildren simultaneously planting 7,000 seedlings of fruit trees and softwood species.

The tree-planting activities and the forming of a human chain also formally launched the K5 or Kalinisan, Kagandahan, Kakahoyan Kilid sa Kalsada (Cleanliness, Beautification, Trees along the highways) program of the provincial government.

In Bukidnon, even with its lush greenery, the city government of Malaybalay also joined the tree-planting activity. *Reports from Delmar Cariño, Vincent Cabreza, Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Melvin Gascon, Villamor Visaya Jr., Ben Moses Ebreo, Cristina Arzadon, Estanislao Caldez, Leoncio Balbin Jr. and Peter La. Julian, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Anselmo Roque, Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon; Marlon Ramos, Madonna Virola, Bobby Labalan, Delfin Mallari Jr., Juan Escandor Jr., and Niño Jesus Orbeta, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Vicente Labro, Joey Gabieta, Carla Gomez, Felipe Celino, and Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas; Julie Alipala, Grace Cantal-Albasin, Chris Panganiban and Nash Maulana, Inquirer Mindanao*

Pinoys with AIDS get free drugs, but . . .

From page A1

to suppress the multiplication of the AIDS-causing virus in his body. The virus wreaks havoc on the immune system, making the body more susceptible to all kinds of infection.

The 41-year-old former "hosto" (male guest relations officer) in Japan is one of 130 HIV-positive Filipinos who have been receiving free ARVs starting late last year under the Global Fund that has so far committed $5.5 billion (P282.5 billion) in 132 countries including the Philippines. The fund from donor countries approves and finances project proposals meant to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria that altogether kill over six million people every year.

Aside from the free supply of ARVs to PLWAs in need of treatment, the country's approved proposal includes advocacy among local government units to mount and sustain responses to HIV-AIDS, says Dr. Gerard Belimac, program manager of the HIV-AIDS Unit of the DOH's National AIDS-STI Prevention and Control Program.

The five-year project, which ends in 2008, has been considered a success by an external evaluator, Belimac says. Generally, the project's first phase which ends this month, has met all the targets, he adds.

"There is good collaboration between and among the national government and local government units and the nongovernment organizations working on HIV-AIDS. The level of sexually transmitted infections among sex workers is at 23 percent and HIV prevalence remains at less than 1 percent," he says.

Free access to meds

The health department has also "capacitated several treatment hubs to do counseling and testing, and to provide technical assistance to social hygiene clinics on STI case management," Belimac says.

The idea of providing PLWAs with free drugs came from the nongovernment group Pinoy Plus, whose members are all HIV-positive, Hiro notes. "In a meeting with DOH, Pinoy Plus had suggested that government should help us secure a more permanent supply of ARVs, since the expensive drugs are out of reach of most AIDS sufferers who have been rendered jobless by the disease."

Hiro himself had to stop working as an entertainer after being diagnosed as HIV-positive in 2004. "It's a good thing I had managed to save enough after 10 years in Japan so I have some means of getting the drugs I need," he says of the three capsules he has to take daily.

Latest reports on HIV-AIDS show that only about 20 percent of the world's 40 million AIDS sufferers have access to ARVs. Compared to this, the Philippines' target of providing free ARVs to 40 percent of Filipinos with HIV-AIDS might seem ambitious, but the target is within reach, says Belimac. The project is targeting 200 recipients by the year 2008.

Although there are at least 2,566 reported HIV-seropositive cases in the country as of June 2006, Belimac says that not all people with HIV necessarily need ARVs.

But the DOH doctor does not discount the possibility that the fear of stigma has kept other PLWAs away. "Though we guarantee them 99 percent confidentiality, some HIV-positive individuals still hesitate to come out to access health services including free supply of ARVs.

Before the Global Fund project was put in place, Hiro had to get his ARVs from the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) for at least P7,000 a month. Branded medication can cost as much as P30,000 a month, he says. Today, the DOH spends an average of P5,000 a month per recipient for the generic ARVs, Belimac says.

The drugs are dispensed through several government hospitals all over the country: the San Lazaro Hospital on Rizal Avenue, Manila; the RITM in Alabang; the Philippine General Hospital on Taft Avenue, Manila; the Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center, the Davao Medical Center, and the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center in Cebu.

Erratic supply

But the supply is erratic, complains Hiro, who has availed himself of the free supply only once.

"I was told that they've run out of Stocrin and that they're still processing the next batch," he says of his particular brand of ARV medication. Other medications disagree with him, so he can only use the more expensive Stocrin. Branded Stocrin costs P5,200 a month while its generic equivalent goes for P4,100, he says.

The government's free ARV program has helped a lot, says Hiro, but the bureaucratic delays can be cumbersome, he complains. "Sometimes it takes them forever to process our requests. The Global Fund has already given the resources but we still cannot get some of the requested medication. *Pinag-uusapan pa raw yata, eh.* (They keep saying it's still being worked out. What's causing the delay?) When will they give us the drugs? When we're dying?" he gripes.

Arlene, 47, who was infected by her husband, comments on the program's "lack of reach."

"There's not enough information. Only those among us who are part of an AIDS network or NGO know about the free ARVs. The government should advertise in the tabloids so more people with AIDS will know about the program," she says.

Diagnosed in 2000, Arlene and 15 other beneficiaries used to get their drug supply from donors to the Positive Action Philippines Foundation Inc. (PAPFI). She now gets her ARVs from RITM, and has had to shift to generics which, Arlene says, do not totally agree with her. "I've developed rashes but they said they have no other medication to give me."

The government should also do more frequent monitoring of PLWAs to check if the medication is working.

"As it is, they do lab tests on us every six months. They're saying that they don't have the funds to do it more frequently," Arlene says.

The lack of resources is admittedly one of the challenges that hound the Global Fund project, Belimac says. "We keep training health workers, only to lose them to more lucrative offers abroad," he adds.

Esperon: Fourth star happiest day in soldier's life

By Dona Pazzibugan

ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. finally shows off his fourth star.

A month after he assumed command of the 120,000-strong military, Esperon wore his four-star rank for the first time on Thursday.

He told reporters that his promotion as four-star general took effect on July 21, the day he took over from retired general Generoso Senga.

"The papers have been with me for quite some time. [The promotion] was effective July 21, but I was waiting for the right time to wear my four-star [rank]," Esperon said Thursday at a dinner hosted by various military public information offices for the defense press corps.

"I was not sure whether [I should] wear it on July 22 or today. But a month has already passed [since I became chief of staff], I told myself it's OK to wear it," he said.

"Wearing a fourth star is the happiest day in the life of a soldier because only one [person in the AFP] can wear four stars... I was not able to wear mine right away, though," Esperon said as he thanked military officers and media for helping him reach his position.

He celebrated by singing a '70s standard, "The Best Thing That Ever Happened To Me," accompanied by the Civil Relations Service (CRS) band.

ESPERON: He celebrated by singing 'The Best Thing That Ever Happened To Me' to the accompaniment of a military band.

After repeated prodding by the audience, Esperon danced the swing with a female dance instructor.

Esperon's delayed promotion has been a sticky issue in the past month.

While Senga's official photograph (displayed beside that of President Macapagal-Arroyo and Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr.) had been taken down in military offices, Esperon's official photograph had yet to be put up.

Esperon might be waiting for the time when he could pose with his four-star rank before handing out an official photograph.

Usually, an AFP chief of staff is automatically promoted from three-star rank (lieutenant general/vice admiral) to four-star rank (general/admiral) right after his appointment.

But in Esperon's case, his appointment as lieutenant general has not yet been confirmed by the bicameral Commission on Appointments due to allegations that he helped Ms Arroyo cheat in the 2004 elections.

Esperon, outgoing Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Gabriel Habacon and two other generals mentioned in the "Hello Garci" wiretapped tapes were cleared early this year by a military fact-finding body. The board, however, refused to fully disclose its report to the public.

According to a source, Esperon received his "ad interim" promotion papers on Wednesday and that the papers indicated that his promotion was effective July 21.

Esperon could not wear his new four-star rank until the promotion papers had been released, the source said.

Esperon claimed he was not bothered by his non-confirmation, saying that he could jump from a one-star general to a four-star general even without the CA nod.

"I'm confident that this matter of confirmation should not really bother me. What's really on my mind is to perform and be equal to the task," said Esperon, who will serve as military chief for 19 months.

He will retire in February 2008.

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Academics, history buffs invited to attend nat'l meeting in Tacloban

ACADEMICS AND HISTORY BUFFS ARE INvited to take part in the 27th national conference on national and local history of the Philippine National Historical Society (PNHS) on Oct. 26-28 at the Leyte Normal University in Tacloban City, Leyte.

The conference theme is "Revisiting Visayan Historiography, Revisioning Philippine Historiography." Among the speakers are Resil B. Mojares, P. Emelio S. Pascual and Roquezon Rubia (University of San Carlos); Pablo Amascual III and Jose N. Lianza (Leyte Normal University); Rowena Guiang and Daniel C. Talde (UP Tacloban); Rolando O. Borrinaga (UP Manila in Palo, Leyte); Rev. Eustaquio B. Rosaldo (LGU Quinapundan, Eastern Samar); Randy M. Madrid and Tomasito Talledo (UP Visayas-Iloilo); Gil G. Gotiangco Jr. II (UP Diliman); Maria Nela B. Florendo and Raymundo D. Rovillos (UP Baguio); Francis A. Gealogo and Stephen Henry S. Totanes (Ateneo de Manila); Calbi A. Asain (MSU-Sulu); Earl Jude Paul L. Cleope (Silliman University); and Regalado Trota Jose (UST).

Founded in 1941, the PNHS is the oldest historical society in the Philippines.

For inquiries, contact Dr. Bernardita R. Churchill, PNHS president and national convenor, at (02) 921-4575, (02)926-1347 (fax), 0918-444-4510, or nitachurchill@hotmail.com; Prof. Pablo Amascual III, (053)321-6487, (053)325-6122 (fax), 0910-300-6420, or dinoamascual1961@yahoo.com; Dr. Rolando O. Borrinaga, (053)323-2173, 0920-806-7885, or rolborr@skyinet.net; rolborr@yahoo.com.

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Ugly and dangerous

EDITORIAL

IT IS BAD ENOUGH THAT DEPRESSED MORTALS with death wishes climb advertising billboards to take the leap into eternity. But must the government wait for the same billboards to come crashing down on people who have not planned on dying yet before it banishes them from our sight?

Last Sunday morning, another huge billboard fell from atop a building in Mandaluyong, causing a massive traffic jam on the southbound lane of Edsa and cutting off power service in the area for hours. This was not the first time a billboard fell on Metro Manila's main thoroughfare. In fact, news of falling billboards are getting more frequent with every passing year. Fortunately, this one hurt no one, though the damage and inconvenience it caused to thousands of nearby residents and business establishments as well as to hundreds of motorists and commuters were inexcusable.

For years now, anti-billboard advocates—this paper among them—have been calling for a ban on the installation of billboards along the country's major roads and highways. And for very good reasons.

Billboards clutter the landscape and make it ugly. The more prudish have also pointed out that some of them are too "sexually suggestive" and they are out there for the young and innocent to see.

But leaving aesthetics aside, putting up billboards along major thoroughfares is plainly dangerous, as Sunday's incident again showed. And that is mainly because government agencies are not known to show any seriousness in making everyone conform with safety standards. The Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines (OAAP) indirectly admitted this when it said that the industry has been put in a bad light by "rogues who do not adhere to the law or even the OAAP Code of Ethics and Trade Practices."

But even when billboards do comply with safety standards and even when they are pleasing to the eyes—or especially if they are so—they are still traffic hazards. Whether or not they liven up the landscape, such billboards draw the attention of motorists off the road—sometimes for just that critical split second that spells disaster.

To its credit, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority has been itching to clear the streets of billboards and stop the construction of new ones since 2002. But its attempts to dismantle "haphazardly built" billboards have been held back by some judges who issued injunctions.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago also wants them banished from the streets and highways. But her bill seeking to prohibit billboards seems to have lost its way in the Senate.

Two months ago, the National Building Code Development Office recommended to Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane that billboards be banned from all major roads around the country. Ebdane then announced that he might come out with the circular the following day. And that was the last time anyone heard of his intention.

The OAAP, which opposes the ban, says a "strict, proper and impartial implementation of existing laws, such as the National Building Code of the Philippines and the Philippine Highway Act of 1953, by those who seek additional regulation is enough to address the supposed issues of road and structural safety of billboards." It also denounced "this latest move to ... stifle an industry that ... contributes to keep this country afloat during these trying times by providing jobs and precious internal revenue to the government."

Those arguments sound fine. In fact, they have the same ring as the arguments justifying *jueteng*.

The lawless initiative

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE ARROYO SATRAPS HAVING BURIED alive the incriminating Garci tapes, they are now resuming the suspended campaign for the revision of the Constitution through the initiative. Despite the obvious unconstitutionality of the process, they are determined to push it through, come hell or high water, hopefully with the cooperation of the Supreme Court.

When the Parity Amendment was proposed in a joint resolution adopted by Congress in 1947, it was questioned by 8 senators, 17 representatives, and 4 major political parties in Mabanag v. Lopez Vito, 78 Phil. 1, on the ground that it was not passed with the required three-fourths votes in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. The Supreme Court dismissed their petitions and held:

"The joint resolution of the Congress of the Philippines, properly attested by the presiding officers of both Houses, imports absolute verity and is conclusive upon the courts as against the contention that the legislative journals of both Houses show that it has never been passed with the required three-fourth votes of all the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

"Furthermore, in Coleman v. Miller, *supra*, the US Supreme Court held that ratification is a political question. If ratification of an amendment is a political question, a proposal which leads to ratification has to be a political question. The two steps complement each other in a scheme intended to achieve a single objective."

The proponents of the initiative are probably hoping that they can convince the present Supreme Court to apply the Mabanag Case in rejecting any challenge to their initiative. Their claim is that they have already collected the signatures of seven million voters that the justices cannot and should not ignore.

Their confident expectation is that the present High Tribunal, all but two of whose members have been appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo, may be prodded by their benefactor to imitate the justices who, by not asserting their judicial powers—and not following their conscience—made possible the adoption and enforcement of the infamous Parity Amendment.

For the information of the initiative promoters, the much-criticized Mabanag Case (unfairly identified now with the late Sen. Alejo Mabanag, who was the principal petitioner) is no longer controlling. It was reversed by the case of Tañada v. Cuenco, 100 Phil. 11, which asserted the right of the courts to rule on the legality, not the wisdom of the challenged act, without violating the doctrine of separation of powers.

More than that, the judicial power is now defined by Art. VIII, Sec. 1 of the 1987 Constitution as including the authority "to determine whether or not there has been a grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction on the part of any branch or instrumentality of the Government."

But the abandonment of the Mabanag Case does not necessarily mean that it has been permanently expunged from our jurisprudence. A case in point is Lansang vs. Garcia, 42 SCRA, decided before martial law, which reversed Barcelon vs. Baker, 5 Phil. 87, and Montenegro vs. Castañeda, 91 Phil. 882, that limited the power of the courts to review the exercise of military authority by the commander in chief. In Garcia-Padilla vs. Enrile, 121 SCRA 472, the widely hailed decision was abandoned and the two earlier cases were reinstated. The unctuous Supreme Court once again surrendered its servility to please the dictator.

(Fortunately, however, Lansang is now a constitutional command.)

The proposal to replace the present presidential system with a parliamentary government, the abolition of the Senate and the creation of a unicameral legislature, the transfer of executive powers from the President to the Prime Minister to be elected by the members of the parliament, and the transitory provisions to be applied pending the formal organization of the new regime, are among the other suggested changes that will involve a massive revision of the Constitution, not its mere amendment.

Such changes cannot be made through the initiative, which is allowed by Art. XVII, Sec. 2, to propose only amendments and not a revision. Revision needs a careful study by a deliberative body and cannot be decided by a mere collection of signatures without the instructive value of discussion and debate. Moreover, there was no law to implement the said provision, so said the Supreme Court in Santiago vs. Commission on Elections and Pirma vs. Commission on Elections, both decided in 1997. Such a law has not been enacted to date.

Given these insurmountable obstacles, the promoters of the initiative must be relying on the Supreme Court to demolish all their difficulties out of gratitude to President Arroyo, the champion of the unconstitutional initiative. Perhaps they are taking too much for granted. The justices she appointed chastised her for her PP 1017 and EO 464, and she may be chided again if she insists on another lawless abuse.

Changing profile

FOREIGN COMMENT

THE TERRORIST PROFILE IS CHANGING IN EUROPE. Authorities no longer expect suspects to be disenchanted, alienated Muslim youths with few resources. Now they may be college-educated men or women with jobs and apparently sound prospects for the future, that is, until they are charged with terrorism.

Because middle-class and university-educated terrorists do not stand out initially, they raise few suspicions until they act. The participation of women "throws out everything we ever thought about profiling," said Farhana Ali, an analyst at Rand Corp. About 23 Muslim students from Britain have been killed in or accused of terrorist acts in the last five years.

British universities are addressing the problem of extremism on campus, The Wall Street Journal reports. Sounds like it should have been done long ago. *Watertown Daily Times (Watertown, New York)*

Who is informing the people?

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

BENJIE TOLOSA, HEAD OF THE ATENEO'S political science department, pointed out, in reaction to last week's column, that Butch Abad should not be faulted for not referring, in his study, to the empirical literature critical of the position that parliamentary systems are not as prone to democratic breakdown as presidential ones. Why? According to Tolosa, Abad wrote his paper in 1994 or 1995 when he was at Harvard, where he quoted chapter and verse from the 1993 study of Stepan and Skach (SS). And at the time he wrote, the critiques of the study, where its serious methodological flaws were pointed out, had not yet been published.

Actually the confusion arose because Abad's paper, which was first published in 1997 as part of a book, titled "Shift" and published by the Ateneo Center for Social Policy and Public Affairs, was reproduced in toto under another title in a 2002 publication, "Towards a federal Republic of the Philippines with a parliamentary government: a reader," edited by Jose V. Abueva and four others. Strangely enough, Abueva, in one of his four contributions to the book, directly quotes from Abad's paper, and refers to it as being part of the 1997 "Shift" book, instead of pointing out that it was already part of the "reader."

So yes, Benjie, I agree with you that Abad's paper cannot be faulted for ignoring the criticisms leveled at the source of his empirical support. On the other hand, we have the Abueva reader which, aside from reproducing the paper without pointing out the more current research findings that would tend to negate its conclusions, also reprints parts of the Stepan and Skach study (the first eight and the last four paragraphs), with nary a footnote to point out to the same unsuspecting reader that the paper and its conclusions had come under severe criticism.

So what we have is: Abueva, in pursuit of the parliamentary dream (2002), blithely quoting from the Abad paper (1997) for intellectual support; Abad, in turn, depending on the Stepan and Skach paper (1993) as the empirical foundation of his arguments. In the meantime, the studies of Mainwaring and Shugart, Haggard, and Power and Gasiorowski (1997) reveal the fatal defects in that foundation. With nobody knowing, or caring, that the house was built on sand (or maybe we can call it a house of cards).

Abad, as we have seen from above, could not have known that the defects existed (although why he could not have kept abreast of the literature, since he was so interested in the issue, has yet to be answered—but then again, he does not belong to the academe). But Abueva must have known.

How can I be so sure? Because in the 2002 annual conference of the Philippine Political Science Association in Cebu, Crisline Torres (yes, our heroine Crisline), as a member of his panel of reactors, brought out the fact that the parliamentary vs. presidential debate was one-sided in the sense that literature in favor of parliamentarism was being quoted, while literature critical of it was being ignored. Abueva, according to some participants, replied that he knew of the authors (i.e., Mainwaring, Shugart, Haggard, Power) and their work.

The next question almost suggests itself: Given an issue such as this, where the decision would lead to a major overhaul of our democratic system, shouldn't a thorough airing of both sides of the argument—theoretical as well as empirical—be the first order of the day? Why has not this been done?

Abueva isn't the only one who should be called to explain. What happened to the other academics, particularly in the field of political science? Do the demands of their advocacy outweigh the demands of rational decision-making, which requires a knowledge of not only the benefits, but the costs of the activity propounded?

And why haven't the advocates of a presidential system not searched the literature themselves, for the theoretical and empirical arguments to buttress their position? Is Crisline Torres the only one who wants to make sure the Filipino people are informed of both sides of the theoretical and empirical issues?

She may be only one, but it looks like she is worth her weight in gold, as far as the issue is concerned. Her two journal papers are based on a longer, 130-page paper, entitled "A Review of the Pro-Parliamentary Critique of the Presidential Form of Government of the 1987 Philippine Constitution." This puts the whole ball of wax together, doing what our leaders should have done and should be doing. She lists down the eight main arguments raised by those who are pushing for a parliamentary system, and then lists down the counter-arguments as found in what she calls the "comparative constitutional design" literature.

That's what we Filipinos need to know: the arguments and the counter-arguments, both theoretical and empirical, properly researched and documented, not the baseless assertions of an "AdCom" or Advocacy Commission. Torres has already done the homework. Shouldn't that information be disseminated as widely as possible?

Which leads to a final question: By what right does the government spend the people's money on an advocacy commission that is plugging for a parliamentary form, rather than on an information and education campaign that will help the people come to a decision themselves, without brainwashing?

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Time for nation to move on

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AFTER THE HOUSE OVERWHELMINGLY DEfeated the impeachment move against President Macapagal-Arroyo, the restructuring of the political and economic system through Charter change has taken center stage. Yesterday afternoon, the 1.7 million-strong Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap), Sigaw ng Bayan and various business and professional groups filed a petition before the Comelec urging it to schedule a plebiscite on the proposed shift to a parliamentary/unicameral form of government. The petition is backed by 10 million signatures gathered over many months and verified by election registrars in all the legislative districts. The number is almost double the constitutional requirement of 12 percent of all registered voters in the country.

* * *

Two things can happen from hereon. The Comelec could accept the petition and schedule the plebiscite within 60 days, in which case the opponents of initiative are expected to challenge it before the Supreme Court citing the Court's own ruling in 1995 that there's no enabling law governing such a people's initiative. Or the Comelec could reject the petition on the ground that it has no jurisdiction because of the 1995 ruling. In the latter case, the initiative's backers are expected to challenge the Comelec's rejection and seek a clear ruling from the Court. They will do so in the hope that the magistrates will overturn the 1995 decision in the face of "new realities" at home and around the globe. The proponents believe the Court cannot ignore the 10 million signatories.

* * *

Last Thursday, just hours after the House finished voting on the impeachment complaint, a group of media women had lunch with British Ambassador Peter Beckingham and his wife Jill in their Forbes Park residence. The ambassador said he was not surprised by the 173-32 vote since it had been his impression all along that the move would not succeed, or that it would have a "great impact" on the Philippines' development or its relations with Britain and other nations. Beckingham said there's "greater interest" among foreign diplomats in the move to amend the Charter and so they would be keenly following what will happen to the people's initiative.

* * *

Beckingham's sentiment reflects not only that of the local diplomatic community but also of many Filipinos. Recall that the first major setback for the advocates of impeachment this time was the Catholic bishops' refusal to support it. That divided the opposition into those favoring impeachment despite its seeming futility and those who didn't want to go through with it. Among the 11 or 12 congressmen who voted for impeachment last year but didn't join the cause this year, there were some who felt that a second round was no longer sensible in view of the 2007 elections, which would be perceived as a "referendum" on GMA's performance.

The opposition itself could be partly blamed for the failure of the impeachment move. As Rep. Edcel Lagman, who eloquently delivered the justice committee's sponsorship speech, pointed out, it was the opposition that insisted that the House adopt the impeachment rules for the 11th Congress. These rules prohibit the presentation of evidence in the committee as it decides on the issues of form and substance and merely call for "a recital of facts." Hence, said Lagman, opening the seven boxes of "evidence" in the committee was against the rules.

* * *

Speaker Jose de Venecia endured the 17-hour deliberations and voting that began at 4 p.m. last Wednesday and ended at 10 a.m. Thursday, managing barely an hour's rest in his office. But he could hardly complain, for there were lawmakers like Herminio Teves, 86, and Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Emilio Espinosa, 83 and several others who had undergone heart-bypass or angioplasty, who sat through it all, too. The long, gruelling session had its share of tension, especially when Rep. Luis Villafuerte came down hard on Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano for accusing First Gentleman Mike Arroyo of maintaining a bank account in Germany. There was also a lot bantering in the lounge about the "double dead" move.

Quezon City Rep. Ana Susano, whose family virtually owns Novaliches, brought many followers to the gallery, crowding out the antis, but the latter's leaders occupied the VIP section. During the long night, Cayetano proposed that the crowd be fed, and Rep. Roquito Ablan surprised everyone when he took out from his pocket P10,000 for the food kitty. Cayetano had brought some 300 pieces of *balut*, three of which he gave to his tormentor "*para lumakas ang tuhod mo*."

Majority Leader Prospero Nograles, anticipating many colleagues to troop to his office for some rest, had durian, pomelo, marang and other fruits ready. To those who accused the majority of "railroading," he responded that the motion was actually on "a slow boat to China."

* * *

After banging the gavel that morning, JDV told the media, "We won the vote overwhelmingly, but we didn't lose the battle for public opinion." He said throwing out the case was "a victory of common sense for the House" inasmuch as a Senate trial would have easily taken one year, "triggering once again the boom-and-bust cycle and negating all the gains we've made." JDV added that the majority was "voting on the right side of history."

Whom will history absolve? What was uppermost in the minds of many House members was that the nation has to move on, leaving behind the divisiveness of the impeachment motion, and attend to its many problems. These include the impending Mayon eruption and the oil slick disaster in Guimaras, the urgent need for an Anti-Terrorism Law as well as Charter change and sustaining economic growth through more reforms. I agree—time to move on.

In praise of penguin parents

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SEARCHING FOR A MATE? A YOUNG WOMAN might want to consider the qualities of the male emperor penguin, which takes "shared parenting" so seriously it would go without food for two months, endure the bitter cold and punishing winds of the Antarctic winter, all the while balancing on his feet the precious egg which has been entrusted to him for hatching by his mate.

Then again, being a female emperor penguin is no walk in the park, either. Indeed, the females not only endure the long trek across a frozen landscape to reach their mating grounds, they must make a return trip to their feeding grounds after laying their eggs, then hurry back to their waiting mates and young, there to feed the hungry penguin chicks.

"Penguin, Penguin Paano Ka Ginawa?," the local version of the Academy Award-winning documentary "March of the Penguins," brings to the Filipino audience a glimpse of life in the "most terrible place on Earth," an environment of such harsh conditions that only a few species manage to survive in it.

Of these few hardy specimens, the emperor penguin is the most magnificent. It has got to be one of the best designed creatures on earth, its sleek black-and-white plumage over a pot-bellied figure distinguished by just the right touch of bright orange near the eyes. There is a built-in "cuteness" factor in their very appearance, as they waddle their way across the icy landscape, or flop on their bellies and slide across the ice. But their cute appearance belies a hardiness and endurance that allows them to survive Antarctica and ensure the survival of their species.

* * *

THE PRODUCERS say "Penguin, Penguin" tells a "love story."

Indeed, it is not easy to resist the urge to "humanize" the breeding cycle of the penguins, or to romanticize the truly epic ends both male and female must resort to just to ensure the survival of the young. It's easy to forget, given the heroic measures the parent birds must endure, that they are simply creatures responding to a biological imperative. If it were up to instinct, after all, surely creatures would have found a much easier means of reproducing!

But there is logic to this obstacle-ridden course of mating and hatching. Foremost of these factors has got to be the environment, which is so harsh and unforgiving that only the hardiest creatures can and should survive. Perhaps by making survival such a struggle so early in life, nature is ensuring that only the most worthy penguins get to join their brethren in an environment of limited resources and endless challenges.

In March, as the Antarctic winter sets in, adult emperor penguins jump out of their feeding grounds in the ocean and begin to march by the thousands inland, battling high winds and freezing temperatures. They head for their breeding grounds, sheltered from the harshest winds by surrounding ice mountains and standing on firm and solid ice. Once there, they begin their mating rituals, "singing" out their mating calls until they find their match. "Penguins are monogamous," says the narrator (Sharon Cuneta in the Filipino version), "but only for one year."

* * *

WHEN the females lay their eggs, they begin the complex "dance" required to transfer the fragile egg to the male partner. Not all couples, especially the young, are successful. One of the most heartbreaking footage is that of a couple watching helplessly as their newly-laid egg rolls out onto the ice, cracking and freezing up.

Once their eggs have been successfully nestled atop the male's feet and sheltered cozily beneath the warm feathers, the females make the long trek once more back to their feeding grounds to store up on food to feed their young. The males, meanwhile, must endure the harshest winds and snowfall as they wait for the eggs to mature. Sometimes, the father penguin falters in his task, and the fragile egg rolls out of its warm cradle and onto the cold ice. And when the chicks break free of the eggs, they have only two days to survive on the starving father's meager food supply. Perhaps no mother's arrival is as eagerly awaited as that of the female emperor penguin, whose turn it is to shelter and feed the chick.

As the young penguins mature, father and mother will take turns visiting the feeding grounds then staying at the breeding grounds to nurture the young, a remarkable example in the animal world of cooperative parenting and "spousal" reliability. I couldn't help thinking of our own OFW families, where parents take turns enduring long absences and unrelieved loneliness away from their loved ones just to ensure the future of their children.

* * *

MAYBE that's where the appeal of "Penguin, Penguin" ultimately lies—the parallels between the penguins' parenthood and our own human parenthood.

Of course, we don't have to endure marching in bitter winds and standing for entire days in total darkness while keeping an egg balanced on our feet. Indeed, the plight of the parent penguins should make us appreciate how, despite the much longer gestation period and the even longer period of nurturing our young, our own parental responsibilities do not require such extreme sacrifices. But we understand such devotion, we instinctively sympathize with the adults' imperative to breed and continue their kind, we even imagine a mother penguin "grieving" over the body of her frozen chick.

Life is a cycle, redemptive in its very continuity. When we become parents, or take on that role, we join an unbroken circle that has been around for millennia, and will continue long after we ourselves are gone. As with penguins, so with humans, and let us give thanks we have our choice of environments in which to raise our families!

Did Hezbollah win?

WORLD VIEW

Edward N. Luttwak

IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF THE October War of 1973, the Arab world rejoiced because the myth of Israeli invincibility had been shattered by Egypt's crossing of the Suez Canal and the Syrian offensive that swept across the Golan Heights. In Israel, there was harsh criticism of political and military chiefs who were blamed for the loss of 3,000 soldiers in a war that ended without a clear victory. Prime Minister Golda Meir, Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Chief of Staff David Elazar and the chief of military intelligence were all discredited and soon replaced.

Only afterwards did a sense of proportion take hold, ironically among the Egyptian and Syrian leaders before anyone else. While commentators in Israel and around the world were still mourning or gloating over Israel's lost military supremacy, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad soberly recognized that their countries had come closer to catastrophic defeat than in 1967, and that it was imperative to avoid another war. That led to Sadat's peace and Assad's 1974 ceasefire on the Golan Heights, which has never been violated since.

It is easy to read the 1973 war only in retrospect. Israel was caught by surprise, because good intelligence was misinterpreted in a climate of arrogant overconfidence. The frontal sectors, left almost unguarded, were largely overrun. The Egyptians had an excellent war plan and fought well, and Syrian tanks advanced boldly, attacking in wave after wave for three days and nights. Within 48 hours, Israel seemed on the verge of defeat.

But as soon as the IDF was fully mobilized and the reservist brigades that make up nine-tenths of its strength were ready to deploy for battle, the Israelis stopped both the Egyptian and Syrian armies in their tracks and began their own advance almost immediately. The war ended with Israeli forces 70 miles from Cairo, and less than 20 miles from Damascus, their success obscured by the shock of the surprise attack, emotional overreactions, and the difficulty of seeing clearly through the fog of war.

It is the same now with the Lebanon war and the gross misperceptions that have followed. No one should be surprised that the latest anti-tank missiles can penetrate even the heaviest and best protected of battle tanks. But Israel's tanks did well enough in limiting Israeli casualties. Likewise, the lack of defenses against short-range rockets with small warheads is simply common sense. They are just not powerful enough to justify spending billions of dollars for laser weapon systems the size of football fields.

More serious misperceptions are equally obvious. For example, instead of dismissing Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah's boasts of victory, many commentators around the world repeat and endorse his claim that Hezbollah fought much more bravely than the regular soldiers of Arab states in previous wars. But in 1973, after crossing the Suez Canal, Egyptian infantrymen by the thousands stood their ground unflinchingly against advancing Israeli battle tanks. They were in open, flat desert, with none of the cover and protection that Hezbollah had in their stone-built villages in Lebanon.

What is true is that the Israelis lacked a coherent war plan, so that even their most purposeful bombing came off as brutally destructive (though with a deterrence payoff, as Syria's immobility showed). Similarly, Israel's ground actions were hesitant and inconclusive from start to finish. A fully developed contingency plan—a sophisticated blend of amphibious, airborne, and ground penetrations to reach swiftly and deeply behind the front, before rolling back and destroying Hezbollah positions one by one from the rear, all the way to the Israeli border—was never implemented.

The contingency plan remained on the shelf because of the lack of casualties among Israeli civilians. It had been assumed that thousands of Hezbollah rockets fired in concentrated barrages (which cancel out the inaccuracy of unguided rockets and powerfully compound blast effects) would kill many civilians, perhaps hundreds each day. That would make a large-scale offensive by more than 45,000 soldiers a compelling necessity, justifying politically the hundreds of casualties it would have cost.

Hezbollah, however, distributed its rockets to village militias that were good at hiding them from air attacks, sheltering them from artillery and from probing Israeli unmanned air vehicles, but they were incapable of launching them effectively in simultaneous launches against the same targets.

Instead of hundreds of dead Israeli civilians, only one or two were being killed each day. That made it politically unacceptable to launch an offensive that would kill young soldiers and family men. Indeed, neither would such an offensive have eradicated Hezbollah, because it is a political movement in arms, and not just an army or a band of gunmen.

For that very reason, the outcome of the war is likely to be more satisfactory than many now seem to believe. Unlike Yasser Arafat, who fought for eternal Palestine and not for actual Palestinians, whose prosperity and safety he was always willing to sacrifice for the cause, Nasrallah has a political constituency centered in southern Lebanon. Having implicitly accepted responsibility for starting the war, he has directed Hezbollah to focus on rapid reconstruction in villages and towns, right up to the Israeli border. Nasrallah's power base is now a hostage of Hezbollah's good behavior. He can hardly afford to start another round of fighting that would destroy everything again.

Project Syndicate

Edward N. Luttwak is a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C.

Role players

YOUNG BLOOD

Ryan Fenix

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

HAVING BEEN FOLLOWING FOOTBALL FOR THE LAST four years, and having had the chance to witness it being played on the biggest stage in Berlin, I dare say there is little hope for us Filipinos in this game.

It has been said so many times that we Filipinos have what it takes to be successful in this beautiful game. We have the agility, the speed and even the cunning and creativity to do very well on a football pitch. However, it has to be pointed out that football is not won by such skills or traits alone. It's already a cliché, but I must say that football is, more than anything else, a team game—even more so than in basketball. And this is an area where, I feel, we Filipinos are lacking. To win in football, we must totally get rid of the *kanya-kanya* system, which pervades our lifestyle and has even spread to sports. We have to shed our "me instincts" and develop our "team instincts."

But can we get rid of this mentality? Have you noticed what sports Filipinos excel at? Manny Pacquiao is in boxing, Efren Reyes in billiards and Paeng Nepomuceno in bowling. All these are individual sports. There's no doubt that we are strong individually, but can we win as a team? And when I say team, I mean a team—not a collection of superstars or "*galacticos*," as the Spanish press calls them.

Consider the case of Real Madrid in the Spanish Football League. Back in 2003, after the team signed David Beckham to a multiyear contract, it was said that the team of so many attacking talents would simply run over the opposition. With Zidane, Ronaldo, Raul and Figo already in the team and now Beckham, indeed that seemed to be a foregone conclusion. However, football is not won by individual talents, and Real Madrid quickly found that out by failing to capture the championship.

To win in football, there must be defenders who are not looking for goals and glory but staying back and defending the goal, much like Italy's captain Fabio Cannavaro and Lilian Thuram of France in the recent World Cup. Their job is not glamorous, they may lack grace or juggling skills, but they are the rock upon which the team is built. To win in football, there must be people who do the dirty work, tackling in midfield and winning possession. Unappreciated though some of them may be, they provide the stability and the impetus for the attack to take place. Gennaro Gattuso of Italy and Claude Makelele of France come to mind. Their names may not make the headlines as much as, say, a Zidane or a Henry, but they are every bit as important to winning games.

Now my question and challenge to our countrymen is: Do we have Cannavaros and Thurams out there who will help us succeed in the sport? Can our Gattusos and Makeleles do the job? In fact, is anyone even willing to play that role? For any team to succeed, we need this kind of people.

I would love to see the Philippines make it to the World Cup. The feeling of solidarity, of togetherness, of being one is seldom more evident and more deeply experienced than on this grand stage. When we arrived in Europe, especially in those countries which qualified for the World Cup, the tremendous outpouring of national pride was so palpable and overpowering. National flags were flown by every passing car or draped on shops and windows. People were wearing their "national uniforms," their teams' football colors. Imagine a whole square in Amsterdam full of people in orange shirts!

This is what the World Cup means to people. They are bound together by one common cause, cheering for their countries. There was no Rome, Milan, or Torino, there was only Italy. There was no Manchester, London, or Newcastle, there was only England.

Had we played in the Cup, there would have been no opposition, no Lakas, no faction—only one Philippines. Football would have brought to us something we desperately need: Unity and national pride.

But if we feel mortified by the state of our nation, who can blame us? What is there for us to be proud of? Almost every other guy I meet wants to leave. How can that enhance national pride? But that's for another article.

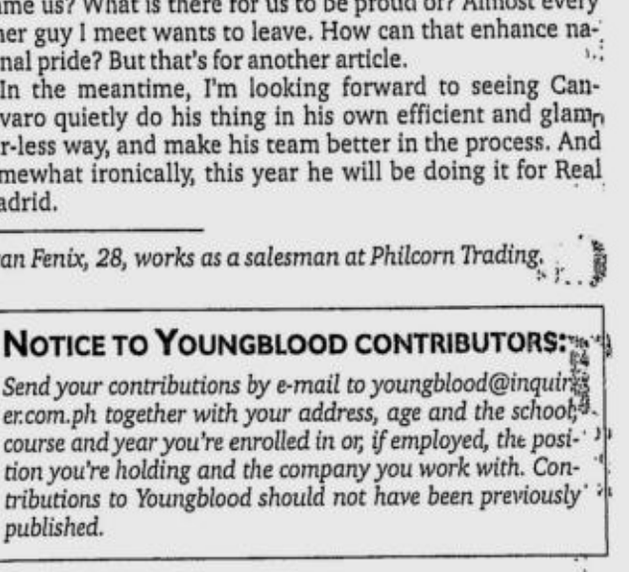
In the meantime, I'm looking forward to seeing Cannavaro quietly do his thing in his own efficient and glamour-less way, and make his team better in the process. And somewhat ironically, this year he will be doing it for Real Madrid.

Ryan Fenix, 28, works as a salesman at Philcorn Trading.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

IN THE NEWS



Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan

'Unglorified' flower

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR — PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THOU SHALL NOT "UNGLORIFY" the flowers.

Flowers, flowers, flowers. People, whether they admit it or not, love flowers. We plant flowers in our gardens and they cheer us up when they bloom. We offer flowers to our loved ones—at times even to those who are not so dear to us—living or dead, as our way of cheering them up, of congratulating or encouraging them, or of honoring them.

We, Filipinos, grew up with a lot of stories about the origin of things. Folklores, myths and legends remind us of our connection to nature. We have a lot of stories on the origins of flowers—like dama de noche, roses, ilang-ilang, sampaguita, etc.

Listening to these stories, we are able to connect ourselves spiritually and ecologically with the gift of creation. Most of these "*alamat*" we grew up with are stories on the goodness or evil ways of people. Myths and legends remind us that when a person dies or disappears, an embodiment of that person will arise.

Take the story of the Makahiya: Once there was a girl named Maria. She was a very shy girl. She did not like to socialize with other people. One day, Japanese soldiers ransacked their home. The parents were able to hide but not their daughter. When the soldiers left, the parents looked for their only daughter but they could not find her. Instead, they found an unfamiliar, beautiful, pink and tiny flower with leaves that would fold up whenever somebody touched them. The parents believed that the flower was their daughter. We now call the flower "Makahiya."

We enjoy reading and listening to these stories. While we know that they did not actually happen, we are able to pick up from them some wisdom and lessons which lead us to affirm that when people die, they are still with us in different forms. Their memories will linger on as we remember their work, their symbols and the legacies they leave behind.

Ironically, on Aug. 3, 2006, we heard that a flower was being named after President Macapagal-Arroyo. The flower is now called "Mussaenda Gloria Macapagal Arroyo." "It fits the President. It is petite and cute," said Dr. Teresita Rosario, the plant's breeder. The story about this flower is not a folklore or a legend. But petite and cute? How can a fascist ruler be cute? How can a leader widely perceived as corrupt, fraudulent and a cheat be cute?

Naming a flower after Ms Arroyo is a betrayal of the people and dishonors flowers. Flowers must be adored and respected. Dr. Rosario's flower deserves better. Who would love Mussaenda Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and its story?

—NORMA P. DOLLAGA,
general secretary,
Kapatirang Simbahan Para sa Bayan (Kasimbayan),
3/F NCCP, 879 Edsa, Quezon City

CELEBRATING life's blessings, John Gokongwei (center) donates P10.25 billion to education PDI PHOTO

An appeal to a philanthropist

I READ WITH GREAT ADMIRATION the life of John Gokongwei. ("A taipan turns 80," PDI, 8/6/06) Coincidentally, I have kept a clipping on JG Summit Holdings Inc., particularly the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation which is committed to help uplift the socio-economic conditions of Filipinos by funding educational projects. (PDI, 8/4/06) It was actually an ad, titled "We Help Empower the Filipino Mind" that first drew my attention to the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation. The Aug. 6 story enhanced my interest on Mr. Gokongwei.

One of the lines in the story that so impressed me was Mr. Gokongwei's announcement that he had shifted to philanthropy after his "soft retirement" five years ago and that the two ingredients of his success in business were reading and dreaming.

With his down-to-earth answers, I was encouraged to write him to seek help for the Caraga College of Technology, a locally legislated college that is operating on funds from the local government of Caraga and out of the minimal tuition fees collected from its students. The Caraga LGU cannot afford to buy instructional facilities like computers, agricultural technology equipment and books for our library. I wish that the students of Caraga College of Technology, the faculty and the people of our community will be able to acquire the much-needed computers, equipment and books out of Mr. Gokongwei's generosity.

I hope that with his bountiful blessings—a nice and happy family, beautiful life and successful business ventures—he will allow us to share in whatever plans he has to make a better life for others through education.

—VILLANUEVA P. OLEA,
college administrator,
Caraga College of Technology,
8203 Caraga,
Davao Oriental

For truth, not for Cura

I WOULD LIKE TO LET THE INQUIRER know that many Rotarians are not offended by your cartoon and do not agree with the position taken by district governor Jaime Cura. Simply stated, he does not speak for all Rotarians, and in particular those of us who are interested in the unadulterated truth which is the first tenet of the Rotary.

This is my personal opinion as a Rotarian and not necessarily that of my Rotary Club, but it is shared by at least two past Rotary presidents of my year: Rene Azurin, a member of the Consultative Commission for Charter Change, and Antonio Chong, past president of Makati North.

—VICTOR Y. LIM JR.,
past president,
Rotary Club of Makati West

Beware of elites' manipulation

THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO Amando Doronila's article titled "Elites bid to seal nation's fate in secret dialogues." (PDI 08/07/06)

The intervention of the elites in the affairs of government is not at all surprising. They have been intervening not only during bitter times of political crises but also in formulating policies that impact on the flow and structure of our economy. The political arena is dominated by them and many of them have even risen to the highest offices of government.

My concern is for the rest of the Filipino people—the poor and the peasants, especially—to be suspicious and vigilant rather than to be optimistic of the elites' intervention.

Generally, the elites' participation in the affairs of government has had an adverse impact on the life of the peasants. Elitists would rather protect their own interests than improve the life of the larger masses of our people.

History would show us how the elites betrayed the Filipino nation. They collaborated with the Spanish colonizers, oppressors and exploiters. Some of them betrayed the revolution at the turn of the last century. They also collaborated with the American colonizers and oppressors. And they were the same elites who collaborated with the Japanese invaders.

In this yet another uncertain decade, shall we let the elites determine our fate?

—DENNIS D. BENDANILLO,
Sociedad de Pilosopia,
Notre Dame of Marbel University,
dnnsbndnllo@yahoo.com

No violation of SRC by Romulo

THIS IS TO CLARIFY SOME OF the issues mentioned in the news story "DOJ to charge Romulo" (PDI, 8/16/06) regarding the conflict-of-interest accusations against Roberto R. Romulo. He could not have violated Sec. 38 of the Securities Regulation Code (SRC) and its implementing rules and regulations for the following reasons:

1. The complaint of Winston Garcia, president of the Government Service Insurance System, does not cite any specific instance where Romulo committed an act or omission that put under a cloud of doubt his independence in carrying out his responsibilities as director of Equitable PCI Bank.

2. Not once, despite Garcia's general accusation, has Romulo acted contrary to the interests of EPCIB.

3. Romulo's being the chair of the board of directors of Equicom Systems Management Inc. (Esmi) did not disqualify him as independent director of EPCIB because Esmi is not an "affiliate, subsidiary, or related company" of EPCIB. Esmi is majority-owned (up to 51 percent) by Equitable Computer Services Inc. known as "Equicom" and by Telus International, a fully owned subsidiary of Telus Communications Inc. which is Canada's second largest telecommunications company. This ownership structure of Esmi was not, ever, contested by Garcia.

4. While it is true that EPCIB and Equitable Card Network Inc. were related companies, and Romulo acted as director of both in 2004, he acted as an independent director in both corporations, with Equitable Card's stockholders issuing a resolution specifically designating him as one of its two independent directors. Hence, he was squarely covered by the exception in Item 2, Par. A of SRC Rule 28, which permits a person to serve as independent director in two related companies.

5. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas itself, the primary regulator of EPCIB, confirmed Romulo's election as the bank's independent director.

6. In Par. 24 of his complaint, Garcia admits that he had "previously filed a similar complaint with the Securities and Exchange Commission in behalf of the GSIS as stockholder of Equitable PCI Bank" and that "In its Order dated 08 May 2006, the SEC-CED concluded that no criminal sanction should be imposed on herein respondents." Garcia admits to forum-shopping and seeks to have the Department of Justice reverse the order as well as SEC Resolution 226 s of 2006 which exonerates Romulo from the accusation of violating Sec. 38.

7. Garcia is asking the DOJ to reverse its own position with respect to similar cases already decided by it. In the case of Baviera v. Standard Chartered Bank, the DOJ applied the doctrine of primary jurisdiction and dismissed a repeat complaint that was originally filed and dismissed by the SEC. The dismissal by the DOJ was affirmed by the Court of Appeals in Baviera v. Esperanza Paglinawan-Rozario, et al., CA-G.R. No. 87328, Jan. 7, 2005. A Motion for Reconsideration was denied on May 27, 2005.

—JP FENIX,
jpfenix@prismphil.com

Apologies, adjustments in GSIS benefits

PLEASE ALLOW US TO ADDRESS the concerns of Eduardo B. Lejano. ("GSIS sincere in helping pensioners?" PDI, 7/15/06)

We regret that Lejano felt offended with Artemio Molina's response to his letter. We do our best to explain to our stakeholders the various policies we implement and we apologize if this effort had proved wanting. We meant no disrespect in the manner the Government Service Insurance System handled his concerns.

We also understand his point on the mandate of Republic Act 9257, which among others, says that the retirement benefits of retirees should be upgraded at par with the current scale enjoyed by those in the service. However, allow us to point out, too, that we also have to live by Republic Act 8291, the GSIS Charter, Sec. 14 of which prescribes that adjustments in pension should be made based on the recommendation of the GSIS actuary.

Prudence dictates that GSIS benefits, such as pensions, should always be weighed with other benefits the GSIS is providing not only to its present set of members but also to all its future members. Any pension adjustment, simply put, must be a well thought-out compromise of potential impact not only to existing pensioners but also to future pensioners. This is the reason why we need the actuarial recommendation.

—ELLA E. VALENCERINA,
vice president,
Public Affairs Office,
Government Service Insurance System,
Financial Center, Pasay City

Why Chuidian has no more claim on Tidcorp

IN HIS AUG. 11 COLUMN, VICtor Agustin suggested that the Trade and Investment Development Corp. of the Philippines (Tidcorp), formerly PhilGuarantee, should not have paid $4.8 million to the US firm, Fidelity Partners Inc., to settle a claim that had been pending since 1995.

Agustin quoted Vic Chuidian, an original party to the case, as saying Tidcorp could end up paying twice, once he is able to enforce his claim on Tidcorp. I am afraid that statement has no legal or factual basis.

Here's why. In June 1985, PhilGuarantee filed a case in California against Chuidian for defaulting on a $25-million loan. Both agreed to settle. Chuidian would surrender to PhilGuarantee his shares in three US corporations—Arci, Dynetics Inc., and Interlek Semiconductors Inc. PhilGuarantee in turn would pay him $5.3 million through an irrevocable letter of credit (L/C) from a US bank.

Accordingly, PNB New York issued Chuidian an L/C for $4.6 million. But the bank froze the L/C later, after Chuidian had withdrawn $200,000. Cases were then filed, and in 1990, the courts ordered PhilGuarantee to pay Chuidian the agreed amount.

But in 1991, Chuidian filed for bankruptcy with the Northern District, California bankruptcy court. He declared the remaining balance of $4.4 million on the PNB L/C, plus other receivables amounting to $10 million, as his assets.

In November 1994, the court ordered the sale of Chuidian's bankruptcy estate. In 1995, Fidelity purchased it. Fidelity then asked the US Court in New York to enforce its claim on the $4.4 million balance on the L/C.

The court ordered payment, but PhilGurantee failed to comply, prompting the court to hold the firm in contempt, and to impose a fine of $5,000 per day from Feb. 8, 1996. As of that date, the principal stood at $8,713,275.20, with 9 percent yearly interest.

By 2003, this had swollen to $18 million: all of Tidcorp officers then risked being arrested in the United States for contempt, all of its US assets risked being attached by the court; and the corporation itself risked being barred from doing business in the United States.

In February 2003, Fidelity and Tidcorp agreed to settle. Tidcorp would pay Fidelity $4.8 million—around 26 percent of the running total of the judgment amount—in exchange for the bankruptcy estate.

The settlement is final, and has been executed. Chuidian has no more claim on Tidcorp any more than the latter has a claim on Chuidian. The matter is closed.

My role here was limited to that of legal counsel, collaborating with US counsel Walter "Skip" J. Scott Jr. But I believe it can be said with some pride that the timely settlement of this case saved Tidcorp a lot of money and headache.

—ANTERO M. SISON JR.,
A.M. Sison Jr. & Partners,
Security Bank Centre,
6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

Priest awakens love of Christ in people's hearts

GOD BLESS THE INQUIRER FOR playing up the humble contribution of our brother Vincentian Fr. Agustin "Gestie" Advincula, Congregation of the Mission. (PDI, 8/6/06) He has truly lived his vows of service to the poor overseas Filipino workers of Lebanon.

We need news like this that will awaken love of Christ in the hearts of the poor.

—SR. TRINIDAD DOSDOS,
Daughter of Charity
of St. Vincent de Paul

Taiwan and UN need each other

COMMENTARY

Wellington Wei

WHEN THE 61ST SESSION OF THE GENERal Assembly of the United Nations convenes on Sept. 12 this year, Taiwan will once again bid to have its 23 million people represented in the international body. At the same time, our diplomatic allies will ask the UN to adopt a proactive role in maintaining peace and security in East Asia. This two-track approach is what differentiates this year's campaign. And once again we seek the support of all peace- and freedom-loving Filipinos for this twin effort.

There are many compelling arguments for Taiwan's representation in the UN.

One, universality is a core principle of the UN, whose mission is "to reaffirm faith in the fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women, and of nations, large and small." Taiwan's exclusion from the UN, due to obstructionism by mainland China, goes against this key principle. The 23 million Taiwanese are the only people in the world who lack representation in the UN.

Two, General Assembly Resolution 2758 addressed only the issue of the representation of the People's Republic of China in the UN and all related organizations. It did not say that Taiwan is a part of the People's Republic of China, nor did it confer on the People's Republic of China the right to represent Taiwan or its people in the UN.

Three, Taiwan is a sovereign state and a constructive member of the international community. It has an efficient government and solid institutions that have proven their capacity to conduct friendly and constructive international relations with many states throughout the world. And it has never been a local government or province of the People's Republic of China.

Four, Taiwan is a vibrant democratic society. With the end of four decades of authoritarian rule in Taiwan in 1987, constitutional reforms made it possible for Taiwan to hold its very first general parliamentary elections in 1992, followed by the first direct presidential election in 1996. In 2000, the second presidential election led to the first peaceful transfer of power from one political party to another. Taiwan's democratic institutions, open society and respect for human rights are recognized the world over.

Five, Taiwan's exclusion from the UN constitutes discrimination against its people, depriving them of their fundamental right to benefit from and contribute to the work of the United Nations.

Six, Taiwan has a long-standing commitment to the UN Charter and international law and cooperation. It is willing to carry out its solemn obligations because it adheres fully to the UN ideals of international peace and security, respect for human rights and sustainable development. With its progress in economic and social development, Taiwan stands ready to share its unique experience with other nations through various foreign assistance and humanitarian and relief programs.

Seven, as a nation founded on human rights, Taiwan's participation in the UN would help affirm the universality of human rights. As a democracy and a responsible contributor to the world democratic community, Taiwan is dedicated to protecting and promoting universal human rights.

Finally, Taiwan's participation in the UN will help maintain peace, prosperity and stability in Asia and the Pacific. Stable and peaceful relations across the Taiwan Strait will lead to lasting peace, security and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. As the global forum for dialogue, the UN could provide a platform for building mutual trust by promoting opportunities for reconciliation and rapprochement between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China. The UN should encourage East Asian countries to resolve their disputes through peaceful means and improve military transparency and confidence-building mechanisms.

Allowing the representation of Taiwan in the UN and UN-related activities will fulfill the principle of universality in membership, making the world body more representative, comprehensive and effective. It will also contribute to international peace and security and enhance international cooperation in political, economic, social and cultural development. And it will also contribute to making the UN Millennium Development Goals a reality at an earlier date.

Our bid for representation rests on one key argument: Taiwan needs the United Nations, and the United Nations needs the 23 million people of Taiwan. Our representation in the UN will benefit all humankind.

Wellington Wei is the director of the press division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Manila.

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Court stops Poro Pt. port takeover

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—A COURT IN LA UNION ON Friday stopped the Bases Conversion Development Authority and the Philippine Ports Authority from running the Poro Point seaport in San Fernando City.

The preliminary injunction, issued by Judge Robert Cawed of the San Fernando City Regional Trial Court, indefinitely extends the temporary restraining order that he issued on Aug. 10. The TRO is set to expire on Aug. 27.

The petition for the injunction was filed by the Poro Point Industrial Corp., which has a 25-year contract with BCDA to operate the seaport.

Aside from BCDA and the PPA, the injunction also covered PPA general manager Oscar Sevilla, PPA port manager Silverio Mangaoang, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza and officials of the Poro Point Management Corp., a subsidiary of BCDA.

PPIC lawyer Brigido Dulay said the injunction has "the same effect as the TRO but for an extended period while there is no [final] decision of the court yet."

"I hope they (BCDA and PPA) will abide by the court order," he said.

He said the PPIC is ready to operate the seaport anytime.

Earlier, Malacañang ordered the temporary closure of the seaport and diverted all cargo vessels to the Subic Bay Freeport and other seaports in the country, pending the resolution of the case by the Court of Appeals.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources stopped PPIC from operating the port after it found that the company was operating without an environmental compliance certificate.

In an eight-page resolution, Judge Cawed stopped BCDA, PPMC and the PPA from "doing any act or deed destructive... of the property rights of the petitioners in their attempt to remove the latter from the Poro Point seaport."

Cawed also ordered BCDA, PPMC and the PPA "to allow the unhampered continuance of petitioner's business operations in accordance with the existing contract."

Cawed also warned that efforts by BCDA and PPMC to remove PPIC from the seaport facility "verges on arbitrariness."

The court also said it was convinced that "the status of the petitioner (PPIC) before the conflict should be maintained. These include the possession of the premises and the unhampered operation of the seaport by PPIC."

Earlier, the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel upheld the validity and legality of the BCDA-BHI agreement following three reviews. The legal departments of BCDA and PPMC likewise upheld the legality of the deal despite alleged political pressure to reverse the findings as disclosed by BCDA general counsel Arnel Casanova.

Filadelfo Singson Rojas and Felix Singson Racadio, PPMC chair and president, insisted in passing a board resolution last month declaring the agreement void.

BCDA president Narciso Abaya said, however, that the BCDA board had refused to ratify the PPMC resolution. Abaya said the BCDA-BHI deal is valid unless a court declares otherwise.

Government corporate counsel Agnes Devanadera also said the OGCC has not reversed its earlier position that the agreement is legal and binding.

Olongapo oil slick spreads to coastline, shores of resorts

By Allan Macatuno and Ansbert Joaquin
Inquirer Central Luzon

OLONGAPO CITY—AN OIL SLICK spotted at least 500 meters off an island in Subic Bay on Thursday reached the coastline of this city and spread in the waters in front of at least 20 beach resorts here.

Officials of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority's seaport department have sent oil booms to the affected areas while some 200 residents here have resorted to sandbagging to prevent the sludge from getting to the shore.

The oil slick was first seen off the waters of Grande Island inside the Subic Bay Freeport at 10 a.m. Thursday. At 4 p.m. that day, the sludge was seen on the beaches of Barangay Barretto, said village chief Carlito Baloy.

Sen. Richard Gordon, who led the clean-up operations in Barangay Barretto, said the oil might have been dumped by one of the vessels in the freeport.

He showed the INQUIRER plastic bags full of sludge which he said were earlier found floating on the bay.

Mayor James Gordon Jr. has ordered massive clean-up operations as the spill has spread across 7 km of the city's shoreline.

Whodunnit

He said they were tracking down the vessel that allegedly dislodged used bunker oil off the waters of Subic Bay.

He said local fishermen found garbage bags filled with used oil floating on the bay.

"The plastic bags containing used oil were apparently torn apart causing the oil spill," he said.

Perfecto Pascual, general manager of the SBMA seaport department, said the spill covered an area about 5,000 square meters.

He said the firm Coastal Petroleum tested a sample of the oil to determine if it would react to chemical dispersants.

"It appeared to be sludge oil pumped out from the bilge (compartment at the bottom of a vessel) of a passing vessel," he said.

Oil skimmers, industrial grade hoses, oil booms, suction engines and blowers were sent to the affected areas for the clean-up efforts, SBMA officials said.

Angie Layug, Olongapo City disaster management office chief, said the sacks where the collected sludge was placed would be disposed of in a cell in the city's landfill.

Minor?

SBMA Chair Feliciano Salonga said the spill, which he described as "minor," had been contained at about 10 p.m. Thursday. He said an investigation is under way to determine the source of the oil sludge.

Rogelio Payumo, a United States trained oil spill cleanup expert, said it would take several days to complete the cleanup because of rains in the area.

He said the sandbags that they had collected from the shores must first be dried under the sun to allow them to separate the sand from the oil.

After the cleanup, the city will conduct daily water testing to ensure the quality of the water supplied in the city's establishments and households.

The government has its hands full with cases of oil spills as it tries to prevent the further spread of bunker fuel in Guimaras Island.

Earlier, a barge of the National Power Corp. spilled bunker fuel off Semirara Island.

ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

NAUSEATING
A resident of Barangay Tando, Nueva Valencia town in Guimaras covers his nose as he prepares to help in the cleanup of a massive oil spill. Residents get paid P200 a day to help in the cleanup.

Squatters' group blames Left for damaging rumor

BAGUIO CITY—AN URBAN poor neighborhood association here has blamed leftist militants for spreading rumors that have hurt its stake in a government mortgage project.

The project opened a credit line in June 2005 to squatter residents of Blooming Hill community in Barangay Irisan here. A P365-million guarantee loan offered by the project is meant to subsidize the purchase of houses from landowners.

Technical prerequisites caused the disqualification this year of the association but its 2,000 members appealed their case to be reinstated in the program.

But in an Aug. 21 affidavit, 39 officials of the group claimed that their chances are being hurt by rumors that Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan, former Mayor Bernardo Vergara and former Vice Mayor Betty Lourdes Tabanda would benefit from the program because they were allegedly the real owners of the land they were squatting on.

They said the Baguio media circulated the rumors by citing the documents of the Organisasyon Dagiti Nakurapay nga Umili ti Syudad (Ornus), an activist group.

In a Thursday press conference, the Blooming Hill residents disowned the report and said Domogan was being maligned because he helped them in negotiating a deal with Asia Pine Hills Development Corp., the owner of the land they occupy.

The firm has agreed to release the occupied land as part of its quota contribution to the national shelter program.

Tabanda has been implicated because she used to chair the city council housing committee.

But members of Ornus said the documents were part of an organizational briefing material that still needed validation.

"[The document, that triggered the rumors], was never meant to be released. It was circulated among associations identified with Ornus," a member said.

Ornus has been critical of the project, which, it said, is deceptive because it merely transplants potentially onerous debts to landowners with debts they will soon owe the government.

Ornus also said the project recipients would end up paying for their houses at commercial rates.

The INQUIRER learned that the Blooming Hill community was removed from the project because some of its members decided to build houses on sections meant for roads. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Ship runs aground; passengers safe

TACLOBAN CITY—PASSENGER VESSEL MV Princess of the Universe owned by Sulpicio Lines Inc. ran aground early morning on Friday off the coast of Matalom, Leyte after it hit shallow water while trying to avoid fishing boats half a kilometer off Canigao Island between Leyte and Bohol.

Chief Petty Officer Manolito Dancel, acting chief of the Philippine Coast Guard station in Maasin City, Southern Leyte, said the incident took place barely a kilometer southwest of Canigao Island near Matalom town at 1:05 a.m., two hours before the ship was scheduled to arrive in Cebu City.

The ship, which was bound for Cebu City from Surigao City, has 735 passengers on board with 85 crewmen led by its captain, Nilo Neri.

"All the passengers are safe and stayed inside the ship," Dancel, reached on his mobile phone, told the INQUIRER.

Dancel said the ship sailed from the port of Surigao City at 7:40 p.m. Thursday and was expected to arrive at the port of Cebu early morning Friday.

Sulpicio Lines port manager Nelson Ponteres said the company has already sent a tugboat to tow the vessel to safety.

He said the passengers were transferred to another vessel, MV Princess of the Ocean, and were expected to arrive in Cebu by Friday afternoon. *Joey Gabieta and Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas*

No relief of Army officials in Valencia NPA raid

MALAYBALAY CITY—CONTRARY TO claims by the military hierarchy, no one has been sacked in the aftermath of Tuesday's raid by New People's Army (NPA) rebels on a paramilitary detachment in nearby Valencia City, a local Army spokesperson said.

A soldier was killed while a militiaman was wounded when more than a dozen NPA rebels stormed the outpost in Sitio Buko in Barangay Banlag. The rebels took 29 firearms from the outpost, according to Cesar Renerio, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front (NDF) in north central Mindanao.

Right after the raid, Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, Armed Forces spokesperson, said two Army commanders had been relieved of their duties and were being investigated.

But Lt. Col. Francisco Simbajon, spokesperson of the 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City, said no official had been relieved.

"We want to deny such report. It's not true that the commanders of the 23rd Infantry Battalion and the 26th Infantry Battalion were relieved from their post," he said.

Simbajon said the commanders of the two Army units continue to perform their functions.

"In fact, they are leading the pursuit operation against members of the New People's Army who raided the outpost," he said.

The NPA said the Valencia attack was only one of the actions they have lined up against government and military installations.

Renerio said "the victory" has made them bolder and that similar raids should be expected.

The NPA has carried out successful raids on police and military detachments in Mindanao, including last year's attack on the police station of Quezon, Bukidnon.

The 7,400-strong rebel group resumed its offensive after it pulled out of the Norwegian-brokered peace talks with the government. *Grace Cantal-Albasin and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

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INQUIRER Visayas
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Tragedy in Guimaras, Iloilo

By Hazel P. Villa
Guimaras Island

CLEAR TURQUOISE waters, white sand beaches, underwater gardens teeming with tropical fishes.

Children laughing as they gather shells and crabs among the mangroves. Women and old folk chatting by the seashore as they await their men whose boats are laden with fish catch.

These are daily scenes and simple joys common in the coastlines and islands of Guimaras and northern Iloilo—both rich fishing grounds, tourism spots, and home to fishers and local leaders fiercely protective of their marine environment.

In a week's time after MT Solar 1 carrying two million liters of bunker fuel oil sank in the afternoon of Aug. 11 about 21 km south of Guimaras, the picture of a tropical haven and poor but happy people has been splashed with the irredeemable tragedy of an oil spill.

The wounds cut. And they cut to the soul.

The usually composed Guimaras Gov. JC Rahman Nava cried copious tears as he read his speech on Aug. 18 at the joint meeting of the provincial and regional disaster coordinating councils in the capital town of Jordan.

"Through the years, we have devoted a sizeable chunk of our development fund to the improvement of our coastal treasures—from projects in coastal resource management, mangrove reforestation, seaweeds, pearls, crustacean culture, salt and shellfish industries. Utmost care was employed to ensure that the generations after us would continue to enjoy the Guimaras that we are enjoying now," said Nava.

Lamentation

Toward the end of his speech of lamentation, he emphasized that Guimaras' momentum for the gains, "achieved through hard work and determination, has not only been halted by the Solar 1 sinking, it has definitely pushed back the timetables we have set for development."

Also as plaintive was the telephone call of Concepcion Mayor Raul Banias to this reporter on Thursday as he narrated how fishers belonging to fishermen's cooperatives had to harvest milkfish prematurely to avoid losses and how marine sanctuaries are being endangered by the creeping oil slick.

He explained that if the oil slick continued to reach their shores, it would be a catastrophe for the people of Concepcion, half of whom are dependent on the sea for their livelihood.

WOMEN and children of Sitio Baybay, Brgy. Sabang, in the coastal town of Sibunag, Guimaras, worked hard to nurture a mangrove reforestation project since year 2000 that grew from four hectares to seven hectares. Awarded a Community-Based Forest Management Agreement by the government with a total area of 9.6998 hectares, the mangrove is now in danger from the oil slick. Sibunag is one of the first three coastal towns affected by the oil slick. HAZEL P. VILLA

"If the fishermen can't fish for a week, they won't have money to buy rice," said Banias as he attempted to put a face to the impending hunger of some 13,000 constituents.

One can feel the poignant and helpless pain of leaders and the affected in this archipelago's worst oil spill, with 1.8 million liters still in its hold continuing to leak.

In the last five years, these two proactive leaders and like-minded souls such as village chiefs, barangay health workers, schoolteachers, children, and civic-minded residents zealously took care of their environment.

Guimaras just graduated from the club of 20 poorest provinces of the Philippines in November 2005 and Concepcion holds court as a model municipality for its health and environment initiatives with national honors to show for it.

But what about those who eke out a living from the sea? They were poor but happy before what Governor Nava called "the 8-11 tragedy."

They are now poorer a thousand times over and most likely find it very difficult to manage a smile, not when they look at the oil in their shores and inhale its poisonous fumes.

The INQUIRER has yet to hear from Welma Occeñola in Sitio Baybay, Sibunag, that is heavily affected by the oil spill.

Welma, a barangay health worker in her 30s, relished standing by the old and new-growth mangroves near her house by the beach of white sand as she explained last year the mechanics of population control—that the birth of one's children must be spaced just like these newly planted mangroves so that they grow well and provided for.

She will surely have to look for other visual aids as the mangroves she uses to illustrate points on birth control would be dying, choked by oil sludge, and are not as aesthetic as teaching aids should be.

Residents in Barangay Nipa in Concepcion integrated initiatives on population, health and environment to improve their incomes and community.

Remy Navarro, a barangay councilor and chair of both the Fishery and Aquatic Marine Council and the Nipa Small Fisherfolk and Farmers Association, told the INQUIRER they had 12 fish wardens to drive out intruders who dared fish in their Marine Protected Area.

Now, a thousand fish wardens can't even protect it from the oil.

The INQUIRER also talked with the women and children of Barangay Nipa who joined the community's mangrove reforestation project that began on Oct. 12, 2005, when they planted 300 mangrove saplings.

"The children themselves measure the growth of the mangroves and they can even remember who planted which mangrove. We are able to reforest the mangrove area without any expense because of the help of the community," said Concepcion's coastal resource management officer.

On Aug. 19, bunker fuel oil crept into the much-loved shores of Barangay Nipa to scar the happy memories of children who planted and took care of the mangroves.

Most likely, the stories they will be telling their own children would be how they vainly tried to wipe the black sludge off the mangrove saplings and when they thought these were clean enough, they had to watch them die as the days and weeks went by.

Things money can't buy

On Thursday evening, lawyer Howard Calleja, the legal counsel of Guimaras residents who will file a class suit against oil refiner Petron, was on national television together with Guimaras Rep. Edgar Espinosa discussing the liabilities and moral obligations of Petron to bring hobbled Guimaras back to its feet.

Nicasio Alcantara, chair of Petron Corp., said the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund would make available up to $301 million to compensate thousands of poor fishermen, resort owners and others on Guimaras Island who lost their livelihood.

Would that vast sum bring back the beauty of the pristine islands, beaches and clear waters of Guimaras and northern Iloilo?

Can it undo the excessive damage done on decades of successful development work?

Would it bring back to life the planktons, crabs, fishes, corals and mangroves?

Can it heal the scars of generations of wounded and grieving people?

There are some things money can never buy.

"We can only hope that this incident will bring out the best in the Guimarasnon spirit, and together with your support, see us through—scarred, perhaps, but better persons, better communities, better people," was the closing statement of Governor Nava.

Brave words in the face of an unjust and overwhelming environmental ruin the fearful extent of which has never been witnessed in these shores.

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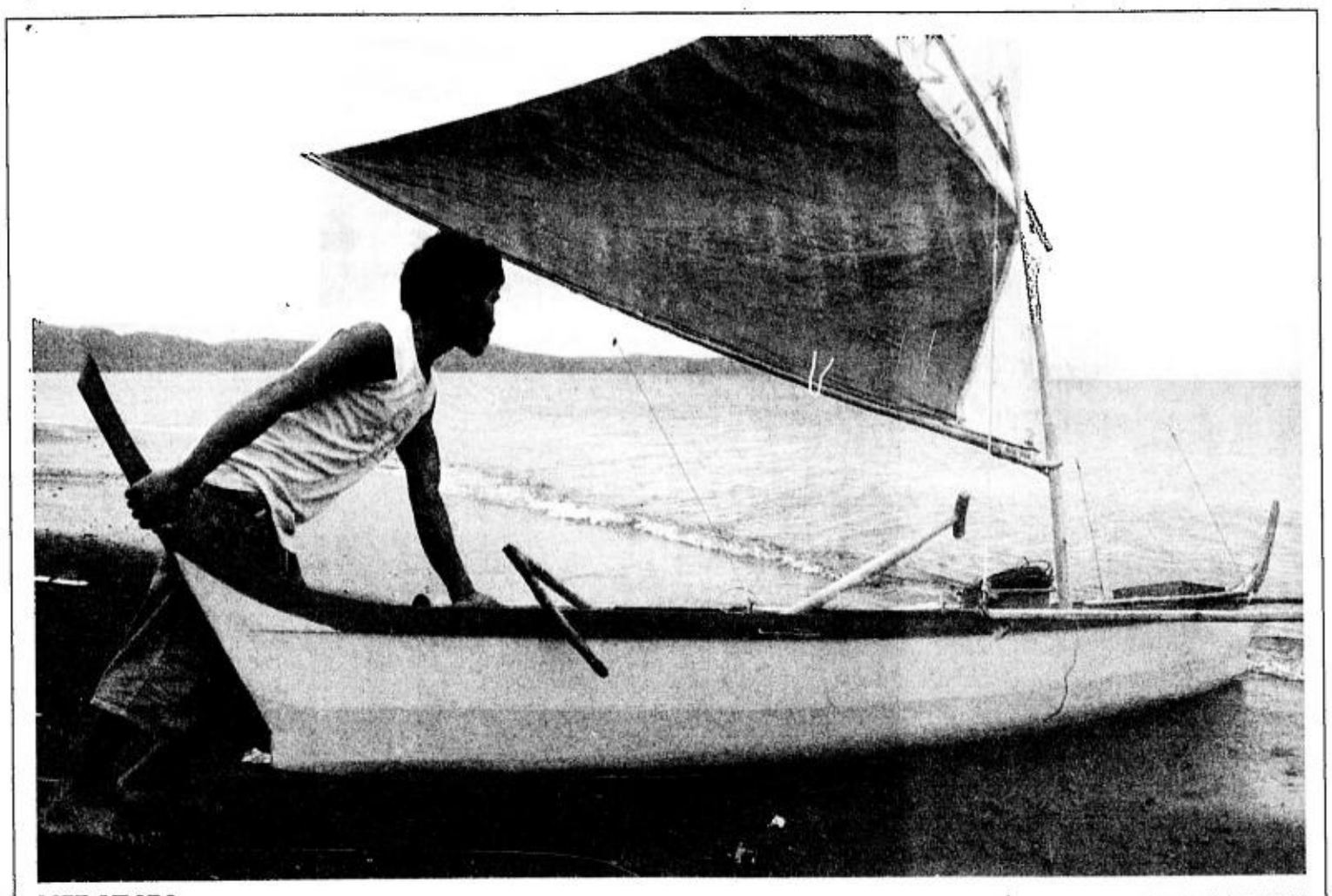


LIFE AT SEA
NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON
A fisherman pushes his boat out to sea to start his day fishing, the main source of livelihood in his village of Bigaa in Legazpi City. Villagers were put on alert in recent days for the eruption of Mayon, but this didn't stop them from going about their daily routine.

Health execs study mental health of evacuees from Mayon

LEGAZPI CITY—Health officials here are looking into the mental health of villagers who have been forced to take shelter in 29 evacuation centers in Albay and who are now returning home as Mayon simmers down.

Evacuees have been experiencing stress due to the discomfort of living in congested shelters, according to provincial health officer Dr. Luis Mendoza.

He said the villagers are also going through fits of depression.

"The evacuees have been dependent on relief goods since their main sources of livelihood in the farms at the foot of Mayon were disrupted. To sleep on a bed not your own causes too much discomfort and even sleepless nights," he said.

RESIDENTS of Barangay Bonga stay sheltered in the Gogon Central School after they moved from their village to keep them out of harm's way in case Mayon erupts violently.
REM ZAMORA

At least 20 "stress debriefers" from the central office of the Department of Health arrived here and visited evacuation centers with 10 other stress debriefers from the regional health office.

The stress debriefing team were to conduct group therapy sessions and one-on-one sessions for extreme cases of mental trouble in the evacuation centers.

Health workers will also be trained on stress debriefing.

Mendoza added that there were no outbreaks recorded yet by the Provincial Health Office (PHO) but there were a few cases of respiratory infection, diarrhea, asthma and hypertension.

The provincial government of Albay already spent more than P500,000 for medical supplies and services, said Mendoza.

There were also donations from the United Nations Children's Fund, DOH, and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Last Monday, the San Andres resettlement site, Bical High School in Sto. Domingo, Albay and Bagumbayan Elementary School in Legazpi City were fumigated to prevent dengue in these temporary shelters.

Mayon had 10 volcanic earthquakes, 316 tremors but there were no ash explosions recorded as of Thursday, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

The sulfur dioxide emission rate, though, remained "high" at 5,215 tons daily.

Disaster officials of Sto. Domingo, Albay dismissed some media reports (not the INQUIRER) that evacuees from outside the danger zones were taking advantage of relief goods intended for affected villagers and were thus sent home.

Romeo Cabria, action officer of the Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council, said it was not true they refused to distribute relief goods to some evacuees.

Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon

CHR holds Palparan Army unit in contempt for snub of probe

VICTORIA, TARLAC—THE COMMISSION on Human Rights on Friday issued an order citing the Army's 7th Infantry Division, headed by Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, in contempt of the commission.

The order came after Lt. Col. Hermilo Barrios of the Army's Judge Advocate General Office gave "only general answers" to the affidavits filed in nine cases of alleged human rights violation and political killing, said Commissioner Eligio Mallari.

"This is disrespect, and the authority of the commission should not be questioned," Mallari told the INQUIRER after wrapping up the last day of the CHR's two-day inquiry on the alleged political killings and other human rights violations in Central Luzon.

Palparan did not attend the inquiry. Only battalion commanders under Palparan's 7th ID came to the hearing held at the city council session hall in Angeles City.

In a phone interview, Palparan said he failed to show up at the inquiry because he had to attend to his wife who recently underwent an operation.

"Besides, the cases [that the human rights watchdog Karapatan] brought to the CHR were all without even the slightest evidence against me," he said.

He said Karapatan has been "forum shopping" since the nine cases have also been filed in courts in the form of petitions for habeas corpus.

CHR lawyers went on with the hearing but lawyers representing the Army questioned the purpose of the inquiry, Mallari said.

Barrios, in a phone interview, said he lacked the time to prepare replies to the affidavits because his office was handling "many charges."

But Barrios said the Army obtained "a partial victory" because the CHR agreed to drop Palparan and a certain Rollie Castillo from the complaints.

Castillo, according to Barrios, was "nonexistent and does not belong to the Army."

Bulacan Gov. Josefina de la Cruz earlier cited reports identifying Castillo as a henchman of Palparan.

The CHR earlier said Palparan and the other officers of the 7th Infantry Division's two brigades and six battalions are coming "not as accused but resource persons" on the investigation's second day set Aug. 25 at the city council's session hall, Mallari told reporters.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz and former Armed Forces chief of staff Generoso Senga were also named in Karapatan's complaint. They were also issued summonses.

Mallari said Thursday's leg of the investigation will hear the testimonies of the complainants and witnesses in at least nine complaints—or what have so far prospered from the 26 cases of extra-judicial executions and 17 enforced disappearances brought before the agency in the past seven months.

For the inquiry, the CHR has assembled a team of seven lawyers, including Mallari who had worked for more than 40 years as a trial lawyer. Flora Atilano, CHR legal chief, co-chairs the investigating panel that, if evidence warrant, would work to cause the filing of cases before either the prosecutor's office or Office of the Ombudsman (if the respondent involved a government official or employee). The Department of Justice would take on the work from there.

The inquiry is not done in support of the same task assigned to the Melo Commission that President Macapagal-Arroyo formed this week, Mallari said.

It is not held to repair the image of the government before the United Nations Council on Human Rights to which the country is a first-time member, he said. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Puerto Princesa court stops firm from ousting partner in mining

A PUERTO PRINCESA CITY COURT HAS stopped a mining firm from attempts to remove the rights of its associate in their agreement to operate two mining sites in Palawan.

The regional trial court of Puerto Princesa City granted the petition for a writ of preliminary injunction filed by the Platinum Group Metals Corp. (PGMC) against the Olympic Mines and Development Corp.

It directed Olympic and its assignee, the Citinickel Mines and Development Corp., to cease and desist from stripping PGMC of its rights over the 2003 mining agreement.

Olympic was also barred from filing further complaints and petitions against PGMC in a deliberate attempt to end their contract.

After a thorough review, the court issued the writ for a preliminary injunction based on evidence presented by PGMC.

It backed an earlier order by another Palawan court that the operating agreement between the two parties was binding.

Records showed Olympic earlier filed a petition for a writ of a preliminary injunction, seeking to end its operating agreement with PGMC in April.

Olympic also sought the cancellation of its contract at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' panel of arbitrators, while Citinickel simultaneously filed another injunction petition against PGMC in Parañaque.

Saying PGMC did not violate any provisions in the small-scale mining permit issued by the Palawan provincial government, the court junked the suit of Olympic for lack of merit on May 16 and affirmed that the operating agreement could not be rescinded or revoked.

PGMC, in two years of operations in Narra town, was able to mine and export to Australia some 300,000 metric tons of ore.

Earlier this month, local officials issued separate statements acknowledging PGMC's contributions to the town.

Narra town Mayor Lucena Dimaala said PGMC was able to provide job opportunities in the past two years and helped lower the unemployment rate in Narra and its nearby barangays. *With a report from Jofelle P. Tesorio, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

NUJP to hold 5th congress in Tagaytay

HOW SHOULD JOURNALISTS REMAIN UNshakable amid the killings and threats to its ranks?

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) will tackle these and other challenges facing the working media during its 5th Congress on Aug. 27-28 in Tagaytay City.

Delegates representing at least 30 chapters, whose members work for print and broadcast media offices all over the country, will try to find solutions to economic, safety and press freedom issues confronting them today, according to a news release.

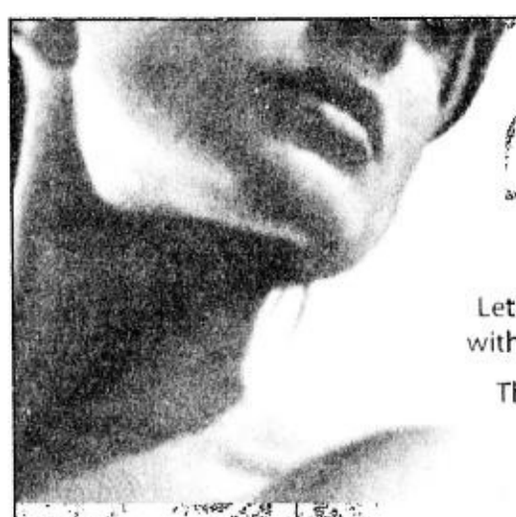
With the theme "Unbowed: Resisting assaults against press freedom, advancing the economic rights of journalists," the participants will also discuss government policies that encroach on media freedom and ethics.

Veteran journalist and media critic Vergel Santos will deliver the keynote address during the congress' opening program at 9 a.m. tomorrow (Aug. 27).

NUJP has been working for media freedom, professional and ethical practice and defense of journalists' rights and welfare since its founding in 1989 by journalists headed by the late founding chair Antonio Ma. Nieva.

In partnership with the Brussels-based International Federation of Journalists and other media organizations, NUJP has been conducting training programs, giving support to slain journalists' families, and monitoring the journalists safety situation, among other activities.

The 5th Congress will also discuss amendments to the NUJP constitution and by-laws and elect a new set of officers that will have a two-year term.



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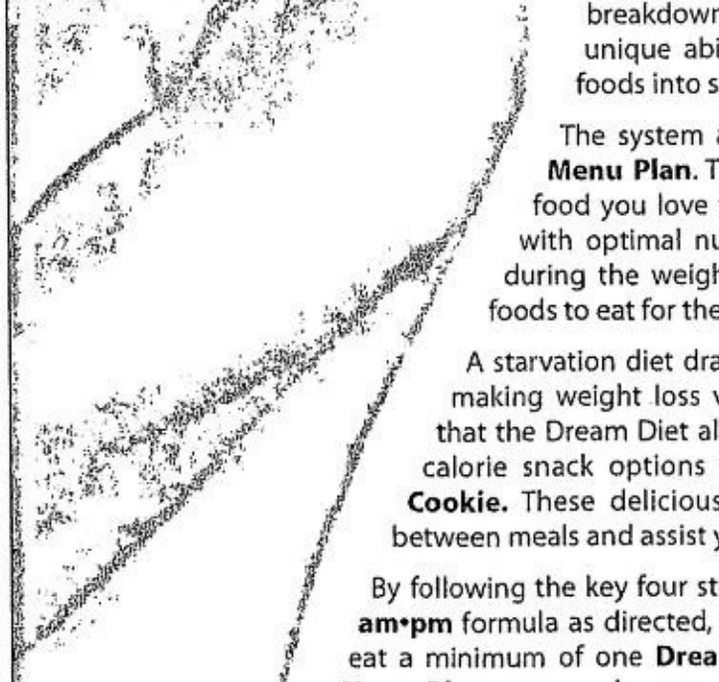

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Slay suspect admits Red ties; linked to cop's murder

By DJ Yap and Luige A. del Puerto

A UNION LEADER WAS GUNNED down in broad daylight the other day by a confessed member of a communist liquidation squad inside a fastfood restaurant in Quezon City.

Rodolfo Paglinawan, 59, died instantly after he was shot in the head repeatedly past 3 p.m. inside the Tropical Food Chain on Gen. Romulo Avenue corner Gen. Malvar Street, Araneta Center, Cubao.

The victim, legal adviser of Nagkaisang Samahan ng Purefoods-Hormel Pulo, a labor union in Marikina City, was seated at a table when the suspect, Jefferson Rafanan, 20, shot him with a .45-caliber pistol, police said.

The suspect, who fled toward Yale Street, was caught by a pawnshop watchman and a member of the city's department of public order and safety, according to SPO1 Juan Mortel of the criminal investigation division of the Quezon City Police District.

Rafanan told police he was a member of the hit squad belonging to a leftist group, the Partido Marxista-Leninista ng Pilipinas (PMLP). Paglinawan's murder was allegedly ordered by the Rogelio Laurente Command of the PMLP.

"Police records indicate that Rafanan's group could also be responsible for the murder of Senior Supt. Manolo Martinez in Sta. Mesa Manila and Barangay chair Rodrigo Borgonia of Barangay Pansolo, Quezon City," PNP chief Director General Oscar Calderon said. President Macapagal-Arroyo, in a speech in Cebu City, urged prosecutors to quickly file charges against Rafanan.

When arrested, Rafanan had a .45mm pistol tucked in his waistband that police believed was the murder weapon. Appearing dazed, the suspect was not allowed to speak to the media.

With an AFP report

COLOR IT GREEN Quezon City students plant trees along Mariano Marcos Avenue to show their support for the Green Philippine Highways program which was launched yesterday. The biggest local government unit in the metropolis, Quezon City has the biggest land area covered by the nationwide program.

JOAN BONDOC

End in sight for BF Homes' water woes

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE WATER WOES OF SOME 10,000 HOMEowners in BF Homes, Parañaque City, may be over soon.

BF Waterworks, the subdivision's private water concessionaire, has given the local government and the Maynilad Water Services Inc. the go signal to repair the pipelines in the village, according to Mayor Florencio Bernabe Jr.

"This will give us the opportunity to start with our water reclamation and recycling system," he told reporters at a press conference on Wednesday.

The new system would draw water from the man-made lagoon inside the subdivision and convert it to potable water using the reverse osmosis process.

The 40-foot plant, developed a year ago with the help of the Department of Science and Technology, will be installed sometime next month.

Bernabe said the system would be pilot-tested in sections covered by two homeowners' associations—the F. Cruz Homeowners Association and the Kyoto-Karachi Homeowners Association—benefiting some 200 households. "Once proven effective, we will replicate this in other enclaves of the BF Homes," Bernabe said.

The local government aims to solve the perennial water shortage in the 100 villages and subdivisions in the city in two years.

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Warrant against Jinggoy stands, says NCRPO chief

By Luige A. del Puerto

SENATOR JOSE "JINGGOY" Estrada, who narrowly escaped arrest last week over a P10-million libel suit filed by First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, is not yet off the hook, Metro Manila's top cop said yesterday.

"Until there is a recall order, the warrant stands and can be served anytime," said Director Reynaldo Varilla, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO).

Varilla issued the statement shortly after six of his men personally apologized to the senator for the gaffe.

The NCRPO chief distanced himself from the move.

Varilla said there was a constitutional prohibition against arresting lawmakers while Congress was in session, and when the penalty of the charge was less than six years imprisonment.

But he said the warrant could be served when Congress went on recess.

Pasay City Judge Wilhelmina Jorge-Wagani issued the warrant in connection with the libel suit filed by Arroyo.

Estrada linked Arroyo to suspected smugglers during a recent Senate hearing on the budget of the Bureau of Customs.

Senators crossed party lines to defend Estrada and denounce what they described as a veiled threat against their colleague.

Police would consult their legal unit on the issue of Estrada's arrest warrant, according to Varilla.

The NCRPO chief said he was confident the matter would be clarified before Congress goes on recess.

He said it was possible Estrada could be arrested when Congress suspends its sessions.

Varilla said the senator could also post bail, which was set at P10,000.

Seven policemen, including Pasay City Police chief Senior Supt. Rosendo Franco, were sacked following the attempt to arrest Estrada.

Varilla initiated an inquiry to see if there were procedural lapses at the time of the incident.

He gave the Southern Police District, which has jurisdiction over Pasay City, until this week to submit its report on the issue.

Supt. Simon Gonzales, Chief Insp. Reynaldo Ulic and Fernando Sayno, SPOs Eduardo Juarbol, Danilo Buenavista and Benigno Robedillo went to Estrada's office on Thursday to apologize to the senator.

Varilla, however, said, that if Estrada was arrested, he would be treated just like everyone else.

It would be up to the court to decide where the senator would be detained in jail, if he did not post bail, the NCRPO chief said.

"We look at everyone equally. We don't mistreat people; we respect their rights and dignity," he added.

ESTRADA: Not yet off the hook. INQUIRER FILE PHOTO

MetroBriefs

No escape

A POLICE aide was arrested by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) last Tuesday after he was accused of killing his brother-in-law over a land dispute earlier this year. Suspect Alfredo Aguirre of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, was arrested in his daughter's house in the same municipality, according to NBI Special Task Force (STF) chief Reynaldo Esmeralda. An investigation showed that Aguirre and his brother-in-law had an argument last January 4 regarding their wives' properties. Aguirre reportedly shot the victim several times with a .45 caliber pistol. Aguirre was charged with homicide but later disappeared after he posted a P40,000 bail bond. NBI operatives traced Aguirre to his daughter's house in San Jose Del Monte where he was arrested. He is now detained at the NBI jail. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

Mum's the word

THE MANDALUYONG City government is still waiting for an explanation from the advertising company which owns the huge billboard that fell on the roof of a Metro Rail Transit-3 station on Sunday. "We have sent Transworld Ads a letter asking for their side regarding the accident," Mandaluyong City Mayor Neptali Gonzales II told the INQUIRER. While the company had all the necessary permits from the city, Gonzales said they would like to find out if there had been lapses during the construction of the billboard. The mayor added that they would create an ordinance regulating the sizes of billboards in the city, in the absence of any laws on billboard sizes. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Water cutoff

SOME areas of Malabon City will have no water for 12 hours starting 11 p.m. tonight until 11 a.m. tomorrow. Affected areas are San Miguel Corp. (Polo Brewery); along MacArthur Highway between Lanzones Street and Tullahan River; Lanzones, Avocado, Chico, Rimas, Del Monte, Inda Maria and Riverside Streets and Barangay Potrero. Call Maynilad Water Hotline 1626 or text Maynilad through Smart 7001626 for the water rationing schedule.

Aquino slay convicts should be retried

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

THE SUPREME COURT, THE bastion of truth and justice, should order a retrial for the soldiers now serving their sentence for the assassination of former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. since new witnesses have come out.

SPO4 Ruben Cantimbuhan and former M/Sgt. Pablo Martinez, one of the convicted soldiers, have surfaced, pointing to Rolando Galman as Ninoy's assassin.

Martinez, in an interview with this writer Tuesday, said his fellow soldiers were innocent in the conspiracy to kill Ninoy. He admitted he was in on the assassination plot. "I feel sorry for them. They didn't know anything," said Martinez of his companions.

The court version on the incident pointed to Sgt. Rogelio Moreno as Aquino's assassin, and all the rest as his accomplices.

Galman, according to the Sandiganbayan version, was just a scapegoat.

Cantimbuhan and Martinez's version exonerates Moreno and the rest of the soldiers who composed the party that met Ninoy at the Manila International Airport upon his arrival on Aug. 21, 1983.

If Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban could say that convicted rapist Leo Echegaray got the wrong end of justice, he should consider giving the convicted soldiers a fresh chance in light of the new revelation on the Aquino-Galman double murder case.

* * *

I have no doubt that Martinez was telling me the truth when he came out with the revelation last Tuesday.

The 69-year-old first sergeant of the defunct Aviation Security Command (Avsecom) looked remorseful and guilt-stricken. He is now a prison pastor of a Born-Again Christian denomination.

Martinez said he came out with his revelation in 1992, but nobody believed him.

* * *

The judiciary is probably hesitant to take another look at the Aquino-Galman double murder case because it fears embarrassment for sending the wrong persons to prison.

There should be no cause for embarrassment as judges are also human beings capable of making mistakes.

In fact, many judges are incompetent and corrupt.

If the high court does not order a retrial, it means it's comfortable with the Sandiganbayan verdict; meaning, the justices did not err.

But what if the Sandiganbayan did err?

* * *

Even if there would be no retrial, the convicted soldiers are already eligible for parole or pardon as they have served more than one-half of their sentence.

A life sentence is good up to 40 years. A convicted prisoner could only live up to 40 years in prison, according to the law of averages on the life span of an inmate.

The Aquino-Galman soldiers have been in prison for 23 years, three years more than one-half of their whole sentence.

The soldiers are well-behaved, prison records show. One of the conditions for the grant of parole, executive clemency or pardon is good behavior.

Martinez, the oldest of the soldiers, is turning 70 this year. Prison rules say prisoners who reach 70 are eligible for release.

* * *

Why doesn't Congress step in and look into the validity of the contract transferring the administration of Poro Point Seaport from the government-owned Bases Conversion and Development Corp. (BCDA) to the Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC)?

That should end the controversy once and for all.

Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson claims the government has lost millions after the PPIC has been running the port since 1998. Manny Tan, PPIC investor, has not put in P840 million as provided for in the contract.

Besides, Tan is a well-known importer of rice and fertilizer. Who knows? He could be using Poro Point as his personal domain.

Don't use force, BTC staff warned

By Tina G. Santos

THE MANILA CITY GOVERNMENT has warned volunteers of the Boys' Town Complex (BTC) in Marikina City to be careful and extra patient in dealing with young wards.

"Wards should be cared for with utmost diligence, taking into consideration the circumstances behind their being at the complex," said Mayor Lito Atienza. "Any use of force or physical violence must be dealt with immediately."

Last Wednesday, the Manila government, which runs the facility for underprivileged and abandoned youths, dismissed from the service Boys' Town officer in charge Daniel Cabangangan and five volunteers for alleged sexual and physical abuses against several wards of the institution.

Another volunteer, Ryan Ponce, was warned and reprimanded after accosting two wards reportedly caught sniffing rugby. Ponce allegedly tightly held one of the wards by his shirt collar. While the boys might have violated BTC rules volunteers have no authority to maltreat them, the mayor said.

Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance
TransCo

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Construction of Security Office at SLOM

A two-storey security office building with roof deck is proposed to constructed inside National Transmission Corporation (NTC)-SLOM compound in San Vicente Biñan, Laguna. It shall be made of reinforced concrete and steel materials and with dimensions of approximately 6mx10m.

[TRANS-06-CSOSLOM-EG-18]

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM,*** through the *Internal Cash Generation (ICG)* intends to apply the sum of *Three Million Four Hundred Seventy Nine Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Four & 35/100 (Php3,479,694.35)* being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *Construction of Security Office at SLOM).* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** now invites potential Bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and apply for eligibility for the construction of security office at SLOM. Bidders should possess a valid ***PCAB license with License Particular of at least: "Category D & C, General Building" and Registration Particular of at least: "Small B-Building and Industrial Plant"***, respectively, have completed a single contract similar to the contract to be bid involving construction of buildings. The value of which should be at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of eligibility documents shall be on the same date of the opening of Eligibility documents: ***September 06, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the address mentioned in the next succeeding paragraphs.

Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document. Completion of the works is required by ***120 calendar days.***

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR Part A of R.A 9184, only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, starting ***August 18-September 04, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Php1,000.00.*** They shall submit their accomplished Eligibility documents on or before ***September 06, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the stated address. Eligibility Screening shall be held on ***September 06, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room B of the stated address.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)*** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on September 27-29, 2006.***

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee ***Php2,000.00.*** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting ***September 27-29, 2006, 8:00 A.M.- 5:00 P.M.***

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on ***October 04, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room Transco, SLOM San Vicente Biñan, Laguna.

Deadline for submission of bids is on ***October 18, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the prescribed form indicated under Section 27 2 of R. A. 9184. Bid opening shall be on the same date, ***October 18, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the ***OAVP Conference Room B of Transco SLOM.*** Late Bids shall not be accepted

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation - South Luzon Operations & Maintenance
Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO), San Vicente Biñan, Laguna 4024
Mr. Ruben G. Castuera - BAC Chairman
(02) 981-4576 to78 local 4094; 4086; 4053
rgcastuera@transco.ph
(02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4007
www.transco.ph.

(Sgd.) **RUBEN G. CASTUERA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI–August 17 & 26, 2006)

sbma
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Bldg. 255, Barryman St.,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone Philippines 2222
Tel. Nos. (6347) 252-4214/4210 Fax: (6347) 252-4284

SBMABAC-INV-06-007
Services
SBMA, SBFZ

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

LOT I — *One (1) Year Contract for Internet Access Services* — P1,900,128.00

Brief Description
The proposed service will render internet access to the wide area network (WAN) of SBMA. This service aims to provide fast and efficient way to promote SBMA on its business operations to attract and increase prospective investors and locators, to transfer information for educational and research purpose in order to keep abreast with the information technology and to communicate effectively using internet applications and resources.

LOT II — *Services and Materials for Trimming of Trees along Argonaut Highway and Aerodrome Surveillance Radar Site at SBIA, SBFZ* — P1,264,695.94

Brief Description
The scope shall cover the full numbers of trees needed to be trimmed for the attainment of visibility of Sta. Rita tower from the SBIA control tower and the unobstructed function of the Aerodrome Surveillance Radar. A 580 numbers of trees assessed and needed to be trimmed in this activity. The area for this will be subjected to inspection of the SBMA Ecology Center before and after the trimming operation.

LOT III — *Various Construction and Electrical Supplies* — P1,339,957.68

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar and related project within the last two (2) years for the supplies and three (3) years for the ISP services with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project for bidding and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule	Venue
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 11, 12 and 13, 2006 Monday to Wednesday (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm)	BAC Secretariat Procurement and Property Management Dept. (PPMD) Rm. 201, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ
2. Pre-Bid Conference	September 14, 2006 Thursday (2:00 p.m.)	PPMD Conference Room Procurement and Property Management Dept. (PPMD) Rm. 201, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ
3. Opening of Bids	September 28, 2006 Thursday (2:00 p.m.)	PPMD Conference Room Procurement and Property Management Dept. (PPMD) Rm. 201, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of ***P1,500.00*** to the SBMA Cashier at Bldg. 229 Waterfront Road, SBFZ.

The SBMA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **ATTY. JOCELYN G. ALVARADO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Aug. 26 & Sept. 9, 2006)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/Location/ Brief Description	**Brokerage Services (Annual) for Security Plant Complex, per BSP scope of work and Schedule of Fees, to include the following:** 1) Documentation 2) Handling 3) Trucking
Approved Budget for the Contract	**P8,800,000.00 (Indicative only)**
Completion date	**One (1) year contract reckoned from the date of execution of the contract**

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the last five (5) years amounting to at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the three (3) lowest bids shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	28 August 2006-7 September 2006, up to 2.00 P.M. only
2. Pre-bid Conference	8 September 2006, 4:00 P.M.
3. Opening of Bids	26 September 2006, 2:00 P.M.
4. Bid Evaluation 5. Post-qualification 6. Notice of Award	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003.

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P4,400.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **MELPIN A. GONZAGA**
Vice-Chairman

(PDI–August 26, 2006)

Thaksin links military officers to assassination bomb attempt

BANGKOK—THAI PRIME MINISTER Thaksin Shinawatra on Friday blamed a small group of military officers of plotting to kill him with a powerful bomb that police discovered near his home.

Police defused a potent mix of TNT, plastic explosives, fertilizer and fuel oil found Thursday in the trunk of a car at an intersection near Thaksin's home, which they said was a foiled attempt to kill the prime minister.

An army officer was arrested shortly after the bomb was found and charged with illegal possession of explosives, prompting Thaksin to sack a top general.

"There are three to four military officers involved in the assassination plot. Some of them are retired," Thaksin said.

"We know which group made (the bomb) and more suspects will be arrested," he said.

But the billionaire prime minister said that no link had been discovered between the plot and retired general Chamlong Srimuang, who helped spearhead months of anti-Thaksin protests that rattled Bangkok earlier this year.

Thaksin said his security team had spotted the car carrying the bomb at least twice in the last two weeks.

The premier and other top officials tried to quash speculation in the Thai media that the bomb scare might have been a political stunt.

"If somebody had made this story up, no one would have been arrested. Eventually the police investigation will prove it," Thaksin said.

Defense Minister General Thammarak Isarangkun told reporters that the bomb was part of a plot to assassinate Thaksin and to bring down the government.

"There is a movement to bring the government to collapse and to kill the government's leader," Thammarak said.

"These people aim to take the power to lead the country," he said.

"If any soldiers did it, we will punish them and the army will take care of this matter," he added.

Security officials have warned since late June that they were looking into intelligence reports that unknown forces were plotting to kill the controversial premier.

General Panlop Pinmanee, the deputy chief of the powerful Internal Security Operations Command sacked by Thaksin on Thursday, denied any involvement.

"If I had done it, I guarantee that the prime minister wouldn't have survived," he told reporters.

The bomb was found as campaigning officially began for general elections set for Oct. 15, the second national polls this year.

Thaksin's security had already been beefed up ahead of elections, following scuffles between his supporters and groups opposing his rule.

The polls are meant to end months of political turmoil in Thailand, but the discovery of the bomb drew worries about how deep the tensions run.

"It also gives the impression that not only has the country's political system been weakened but the rule of law, which is the main pillar of democracy, has also been eroded," the Nation newspaper wrote in an editorial.

Thaksin, 57, survived months of street protests earlier this year demanding his resignation over claims of corruption stemming from his family's $1.9-billion sale of telecom stock.

He called snap elections in April to end the protests. His party won, but the victory was undermined an opposition boycott. The courts invalidated the results and set the stage for the new polls in October. *AFP*

Indian court refuses to lift ban on Coke, Pepsi

KOCHI, INDIA—AN INDIAN court declined on Friday to lift a regional ban on the production and sale of Coca-Cola and Pepsi products, imposed after an environment group said the drinks contained dangerous levels of pesticides.

The high court in the southern state of Kerala said it would not give temporary respite to the two global giants until their petitions against the state government's ban was heard and the case disposed.

It said the next hearing of the case would be on Sept. 11 when the court convenes after holidays for a local Hindu festival.

The communist government of Kerala earlier this month imposed a blanket ban on the production and sale of soft drinks made by the two companies saying they were harmful to consumers.

The ban came days after the New Delhi-based Center for Science and Environment said tests conducted by it on samples of the drinks across the country found high levels of pesticide traces in them.

Six other states imposed partial bans on Coca-Cola and Pepsi products by prohibiting sales at or near schools, colleges and hospitals.

The two firms have said that their products were safe and a government-appointed expert panel this week said that CSE had failed to prove its claims and there were inconsistencies in its chemical analysis.

The environment group, however, has rejected the government's findings and said the health ministry was pandering to big multinationals at the cost of public health. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

France bolsters UN force in Lebanon

PARIS—France announced it was committing 1,600 more troops to a UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon, as the United Nations said a French general would keep command over the operation to monitor the tenuous ceasefire. "I have decided to send two extra battalions into the field to expand our UNIFIL contingent. Two thousand French soldiers will thus be placed under the UN flag in Lebanon," Chirac said in a televised address on Thursday. Each French battalion counts 800 soldiers. Four hundred French soldiers are already serving in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).The force is seen as crucial in shoring up a fragile ceasefire between Israel and the Shiite militia Hezbollah that came into effect Aug. 14 after a 34-day conflict, under the terms of UN Security Council resolution 1701 co-authored by France and the United States. *AFP*

12th person charged in UK terror plot

LONDON—A 12th person was charged on Thursday in connection with the thwarted alleged terror plot to blow up US-bound passenger jets two weeks ago, police said. Umair Hussain, 24, was one of 25 people arrested since police staged pre-dawn raids on Aug. 10 in connection with the plot. Five have since been released without charge. Police were granted warrants by a court to quiz the remaining eight until next Wednesday. Under British anti-terror laws, suspects can be detained for up to 28 days without being charged, subject to regular court approval. Hussain was charged under anti-terror legislation for failing to disclose information about his brother, Nabeel Hussain, who is believed to be one of the eight still in custody. *AFP*

Iran cartoons vs Danish drawings

TEHRAN, IRAN—The title of the show is "Holocaust International Cartoon Contest," or "Holocust," as the show's organizers spell the word in promotional material. There is a drawing of a Jew with a large nose, a nose so large it obscures his entire head. Across his chest is the word Holocaust. Another drawing shows a vampire wearing a big Star of David drinking the blood of Palestinians. The cartoons are among more than 200 on display in the Palestinian Contemporary Art Museum in central Tehran in a show that opened this month and is to run until the middle of September. The exhibition is intended to expose what some here see as Western hypocrisy for invoking freedom of expression regarding the publication of cartoons that lampooned the Prophet Muhammad while condemning President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran for questioning the Holocaust. The cartoons of Muhammad, first published in September 2005 in a Danish newspaper, were widely condemned by Muslims as blasphemous. *NYT*

Apple recalls 1.8M laptop batteries

SAN FRANCISCO—Apple Computer is voluntarily recalling more than one million laptop computer batteries fearing they could burst into flames, the US Consumer Product Safety Commission said Thursday. The recall centered on lithium-ion batteries made by Japan-based Sony and sold with some iBook G4 and PowerBook G4 computers, according to the commission. The recall did not involve any of Apple's new laptops powered by Intel computer chips, according to Dowling. *AFP*

EPA accused of hiding 9/11 dust danger

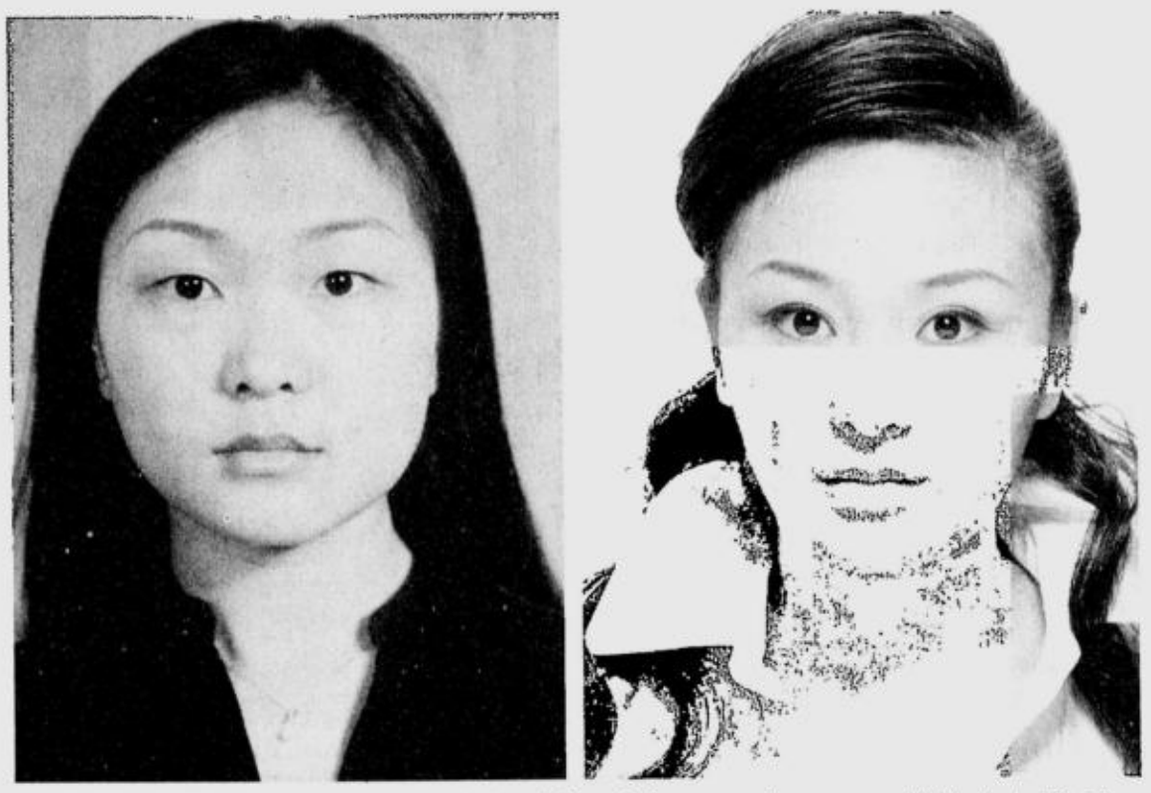
A SENIOR SCIENTIST AT THE ENvironmental Protection Agency has accused the agency of relying on misleading data about the health hazards of World Trade Center dust.

The scientist, who has been sharply critical of the agency in the past, claimed in a letter to members of the New York congressional delegation this week that test reports in 2002 and 2003 distorted the alkalinity, or pH level, of the dust released when the twin towers collapsed, downplaying its danger.

Some doctors suspect that the highly alkaline nature of the dust contributed to the variety of ailments that recovery workers and residents have complained of since the attack.

Tests of the gray-brown dust conducted by scientists at the US Geological Survey a few months after the attack found that the dust was highly alkaline, in some instances as caustic or corrosive as drain cleaner, and capable of causing severe irritation and burns.

The tests that are being challenged by the EPA scientist were conducted by independent scientists at New York University. Those tests also indicated that larger particles of dust were highly alkaline. *New York Times*



WORTHY CAUSE?—Hao Lulu shows her before (left) and after cosmetic surgery, which included facial reconstruction and nose reshaping, in Beijing. Rising incomes and perceptions that better looks secure better jobs and husbands have fuelled a boom for breast enlargement and other remedies in recent years. The Chinese spend over $20 billion a year on altering their looks. REUTERS

Wanna look good? Join the Aussie Army

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA—AUSTralian soldiers are indulging in expensive cosmetic surgery—including breast enlargements, nose jobs and face lifts—at taxpayers' expense, according to media reports Friday that prompted a defense department investigation.

Official Australian Defense Force policy states that personnel can undergo plastic surgery at public expense for medical or psychological reasons that threaten their ability to work.

An army cook underwent a nose reduction operation Wednesday in the east coast city of Brisbane, while female service personnel have had breast enlargements after claiming that depression and poor confidence were hurting their work, News Ltd. newspapers reported. *AP*

Easier access to morning-after pill

WASHINGTON—THE Food and Drug Administration on Thursday approved over-the-counter sales of the morning-after contraceptive pill to those 18 and older, resolving one of the most contentious issues in the agency's 100-year history.

The drug, an emergency contraceptive under the brand name Plan B that is manufactured by Barr Pharmaceuticals of Woodcliff Lake, NJ, will be sold only in pharmacies and health clinics. Buyers will have to show proof of age. Anyone under the age of 18 will still need a prescription.

Nationwide over-the-counter sales will begin by the end of the year, Barr executives said. The prescription drug now sells for $25 to $40.

Andrew C. von Eschenbach, acting commissioner of the FDA, wrote that he had decided that 18 was the appropriate cut-off age for sales because pharmacies already restricted nicotine and cold medicines sales that way.

Von Eschenbach's predecessor, Dr. Lester M. Crawford, said last year that science supported giving over-the-counter access of the drug to women at 17, but that he could not figure out how to ensure that such an age restriction was enforced.

Abortion rights advocates lobbied equally hard to get the application approved, contending that easy access to Plan B would sharply reduce the nearly 1 million abortions performed each year in the United States.

Both sides are wrong, studies suggest. Couples in the United States have so much unprotected sex—half of all pregnancies are unplanned—that even if the pills were passed out like aspirin, they would be unlikely to cause a major change in abortion and disease rates. *New York Times*

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
LAGUNA LENDING CENTER
City of Calamba
Tel. No. (049) 545-2194/4545 Fax No. (049) 545-4646

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposal together with 10% bid bond for the purchase on CASH BASIS of the properties listed below will be received at the OFFICE of the Area Head, Area IV-B, Los Baños, Laguna, Land Bank of the Philippines, on September 19, 2006 not later than 2 p.m., which place, date and time, said proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

In case of closely clustered top bids (defined as having the second highest bid, which is not below 90% of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be immediately followed by an open auction in which all bidders whose bids are not below 80% of the highest bid may participate.

DATE	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID
September 9, 2006	1. Lot 401 sq.m.	Bo. of Pasong Tamo, Quezon City	2,406,000.00
	2. Lot 427 sq.m. w/ Residential Building	Bo. of Pasong Tamo, Quezon City	11,429,000.00

If for any reason the above-mentioned date is declared a non-working holiday, then the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at the time and place aforementioned.

Bidding forms may be obtained from Laguna Lending Center, 3/F Distor-Lugo Bldg., Real Road, Calamba City. Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above listed properties before entering their bids. The sale of the properties shall be "AS-IS-WHERE-IS." The Winning bidder/s shall take possession of the awarded properties without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder/s shall be subject to approval of the LBP approving authorities/President of the Republic of the Philippines whenever applicable. LAND BANK RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS TO ANY, WAIVE FORMALITY AND TO ACCEPT THE BID MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE LBP WILL BE FINAL AND BINDING.

(Sgd.) **CECILIA C. BORROMEO**
Chairman
Head Office Committee on Asset Disposal

(PDI–August 26, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY
(Public Estates Authority)
7/F Legaspi Towers 200 Bldg., 107 Paseo de Roxas St., Legaspi Village, 1226 City of Makati
Tel. Nos. (02) 817-4711 to 13; (02) 813-1441 to 45; Facsimile No. (02)815-2662
Website: www.pea.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID PURCHASE OF SIX (6) BRAND NEW MOTOR VEHICLES (06-004)

1. The Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), through its corporate budget intends to apply the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) the sum of **Five Million One Hundred Fifty Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,155,000.00)**, inclusive of VAT, to payments under the contract for the purchase of Six (6) Brand New Motor Vehicles. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PRA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for One (1) Pick-up Type Vehicle and Five (5) Passenger Wagon Type Vehicles. The delivery of GOODS is required within ten (10) days after issuance of Notice to Proceed (NTP). The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Annex A of the Bid Data Sheet (BDS).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents starting August 29, 2006 from 8:00AM to 5:00 PM
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased from September 5 to 11, 2006 by interested Bidders from the BAC Secretariat and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand One Hundred Fifty Five Pesos (Php 5,155.00). The method of payment will be cash or check payable to PRA. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The PRA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on September 14, 2006 at 10:00 A.M. at the PRA Conference Room, 8th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the PRA Office on or before September 28. 2006 at 10:00 A.M. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount indicated in the BDS. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on September 28, 2006 at 10:15 A.M. at the PRA Conference Room, 8th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. Prospective Bidders should have undertaken a project or contract within the last two (2) years with the same kind and contract price, and should have key personnel and services / equipment available for the prosecution of the project.
10. Pursuant to BIR Revenue Regulations 03-2005, all prospective bidders are mandated to file their income and business tax returns electronically using the Electronic Filing and Payment System (EFPS).
11. The PRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.
12. The PRA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd) **JOSEFINA L. CASTRO**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI–Aug. 26 & Sept. 4, 2006)

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Probe of Israel use of US bombs opens

WASHINGTON—THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS investigating whether Israel's use of US-made cluster bombs in southern Lebanon violated agreements with the United States that restrict when it can employ such weapons, two officials said.

The investigation by the department's Office of Defense Trade Controls began this week, after reports that three types of US-made cluster munitions, antipersonnel weapons that spray bomblets over a wide area, have been found in many areas of southern Lebanon and were responsible for civilian casualties.

Gonzalo Gallegos, a State Department spokesperson, said, "We have heard the allegations that these munitions were used, and we are seeking more information." He declined to comment further.

Several current and former officials said that they doubted the investigation would lead to sanctions against Israel, but that the decision to proceed with the inquiry might be intended to help the Bush administration ease criticism from Arab governments and commentators over its support of Israel's military operations. The investigation has not been publicly announced; the State Department confirmed it in response to questions.

In addition to investigating use of the weapons in southern Lebanon, the State Department has delayed a shipment of M-26 artillery rockets, a cluster weapon, that Israel sought while the conflict was still under way, the two officials said.

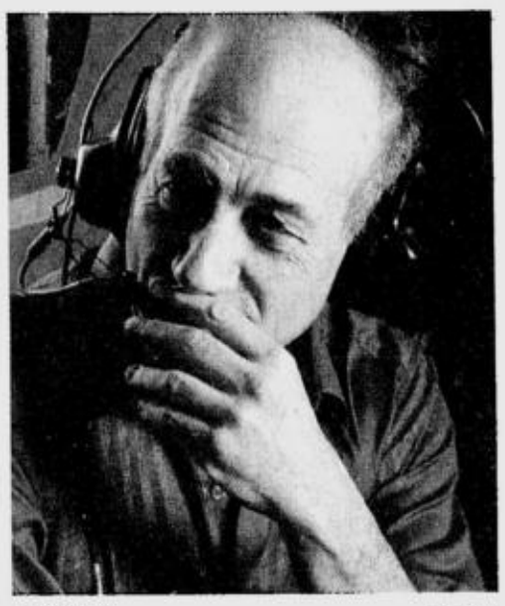
The inquiry is likely to focus on whether Israel properly informed the United States about its use of the cluster weapons and whether targets were strictly military. So far, the State Department is relying on reports from UN personnel and non-governmental organizations in southern Lebanon to gather information on use of the weapons, the officials said.

David Siegel, a spokesperson for the Israeli Embassy, said, "We have not been informed about any such inquiry, and when we are we would be happy to respond."

The agreements that govern Israel's use of US-made cluster munitions go back to the 1970s, when the first sales of the weapons occurred, but the details of them have never been publicly confirmed. The first one was signed 1976 and later reaffirmed in 1978 after an Israeli incursion into Lebanon. News accounts over the years have said that the agreements require that the munitions be used only against organized Arab armies and clearly defined military targets under conditions similar to the Arab-Israeli wars in 1969 and 1973.

A congressional investigation after Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon found that Israel had used the weapons against civilian areas in violation of the agreements. In response, the Reagan administration imposed a six-year ban on further sales of cluster weapons to Israel.

New York Times



OLMERT REUTERS

Poll: Israelis want PM to resign over Lebanon war

JERUSALEM—SIXTY-THREE PERCENT OF ISraelis want Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to resign in a sharp public rebuke over his handling of the war in Lebanon, a newspaper poll showed on Friday.

The Yedioth Aronoth poll showed for the first time a majority favored Olmert stepping down, along with a big jump in support for the right-wing Likud party and its leader, Benjamin Netanyahu.

Another poll in the Maariv newspaper showed that only 14 percent of Israelis would vote for Olmert if new elections were held today, while 26 percent would back Netanyahu, a former prime minister.

The Yedioth poll said 45 percent would support Netanyahu as prime minister in new elections.

Yedioth, Israel's biggest circulation daily, called the survey results a political "earthquake" for Olmert, whose centrist Kadima party crushed Netanyahu's Likud in general elections in March. A similar poll published a week ago showed 41 percent wanted Olmert to resign.

Olmert, a career politician who lacks the combat credentials of many of his predecessors, has seen his public standing plummet for failing to deliver a fatal blow to Hezbollah during the 34-day war in Lebanon.

Twenty-two percent of Israelis in the Yedioth poll deemed Netanyahu "most fit" to be prime minister, compared to 11 percent for Olmert.

Olmert also trailed ultranationalist Avigdor Lieberman with 18 percent and senior statesman Shimon Peres with 12 percent, according to Yedioth.

The Maariv poll showed that if elections were held today, Olmert's Kadima party would win just 14 seats in parliament, compared to 24 seats each for Likud and Lieberman's party.

The left-leaning Labor party would win just nine seats.

In addition to calling for Olmert's resignation, 74 percent of Israelis in the Yedioth poll said Defense Minister Amir Peretz, the left-leaning Labor party leader, should step down.

Fifty-four percent want army chief Dan Halutz to step down.

Many Israelis viewed a UN-brokered ceasefire backed by Olmert as a failure for Israel because Hezbollah's leadership was left standing and the two Israeli soldiers, whose capture by Hezbollah on July 12 sparked the war, were still in captivity.

At least 1,110 people in Lebanon and 157 Israelis were killed in the conflict.

In a bid to boost his public standing, Olmert on Thursday visited several northern towns hard hit by Hezbollah rockets and promised more than $2 billion in reconstruction funding.

But Olmert is already struggling to hold together his coalition with Labor and the prime minister did not say where the new reconstruction funds would come from.

Olmert has put on hold for now his proposal for an Israeli pullout from parts of the occupied West Bank.

The proposal was the centrepiece of the government program that won him election in March. But resurgent violence in Gaza, which Israel evacuated last year, plus the Lebanon war appears to have dampened public enthusiasm for territorial withdrawals. *Reuters*

Chiina, 7
Grade 2, PAREF-Woodrose

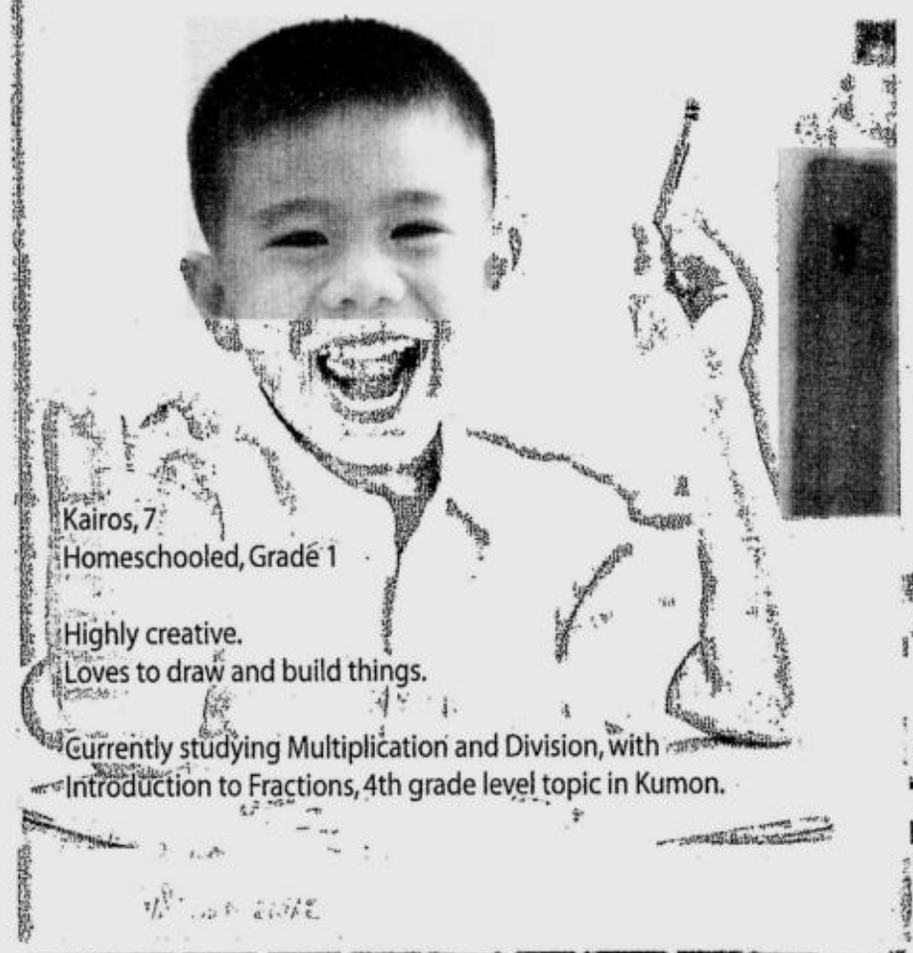
Pianist, Piano Teachers' Guild of the Philippines' Piano Festival 2006.

Learning to construct and respond to questions using who, what, where, when, why and how, organizes information from passages into a chart format, writes answers independently, tackling Grade 3 topics of the Kumon Reading Program.

Vinni, 16
Freshman, ASEAN Scholar at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore

Loves to play basketball and tennis.
37th International Physics Olympiad Bronze Medalist.
Science Olympiad Silver Medalist.
Math Competition Champion.

Kumon Math Program Completer.



Kairos, 7
Homeschooled, Grade 1

Highly creative.
Loves to draw and build things.

Currently studying Multiplication and Division, with Introduction to Fractions, 4th grade level topic in Kumon.

Marga, 12
Freshman,
Elizabeth Seton School

Class President,
Treasurer, Student Council,
Math Club member.
Likes to swim and play badminton.

Studies Advanced Factorization & Quadratic Equations, a college level Math topic in Kumon.

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KUMON

WHAT'S INSIDE

RP Davis Cup stars crack Asia's Top 50 /A23

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Hoop heavyweights ready for showdown/A24

Bata, Django overwhelm Malaysians, gain q'finals

THE EMINENT FILIPINO pair of Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante overwhelmed Malaysians Patrick Ooi Fook Yuen and Ibrahim Bin Amir, 9-5, on Thursday to advance to the quarterfinals of the inaugural Party-Poker.com World Cup of Pool at the Newport Centre, Newport, South Wales, in Britain.

Reyes and Bustamante, the 1-2 punch of Team Philippines, will be facing the winner of the Canada-Czech Republic tussle that was still being played at presstime.

Czech Republic (Roman Hybler-Michal Gavenciak) bested Poland (Radoslaw Babica-Mariusz Roter), 9-6, in the opener while Canada (Luc Salvas-Tyler Edey) trounced Thailand (Tepwin Arunnath-Amnuayporn Chotipong), 9-5.

The Philippines, ranked No. 1 among the 32 teams representing 31 countries in the fold, won its first match against the Maltese pair of Tony Drago and Alex Borg by an even more impressive 9-0 score.

"I hope Efren (Reyes) and Django (Bustamante) maintain their momentum," said Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, the pair's sponsor and "godfather" of Philippine billiards.

The champion pair will win $60,000.

"We played well enough—we missed some balls, but the most important thing is the win," the 43-year-old Bustamante said in the event's official website:www.worldcupofpool. "The crowd was great and they prayed for me and Efren."

DJANGO Bustamante makes the clincher against Malta as Bata Reyes and Alex Borg (seated) look on. PARTY POKER.COM WORLD CUP OF POOL

Third-seed US, represented by three-time world champion Earl Strickland and former US Open titlist Rodney Morris, also advanced by whipping England "B" of Daryl Peach and Steve Davis, 9-3.

Taiwan (Yang Ching-shun-Wang Hung-hsiang) tripped India (Dharminder Lilly and Alok Kumar), 9-6.

The biggest revelation in the first round was Hong Kong's Lee Chan-nan and Kong Man-ho who stunned the Swedish pair of Marcus Chamat and Torm Storm, 9-8.

Finland, fielding Mika Immonen and Marcus Juva, nipped Ireland (Tommy Donlon and Paddy McLaughin), 9-5, while Italy, made up of Angelo Millauro and former world trick-shot champion Fabio Petroni, walloped South Africa (David Anderson and Yulan Govender), 9-2. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Charges set vs 11 execs in Palaro age cheating

By Alcuin Papa

A FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE FORMED BY the Department of Education to investigate alleged age cheating in the last Palarong Pambansa has recommended the filing of administrative and criminal charges against 11 school officials.

The committee also recommended disciplinary actions and the filing of charges against 16 students who played in the national Games despite being overaged. The criminal charges will only apply to the students over 18 years old.

According to report of the committee, dated Aug. 4, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, the school officials were:

- **Rey Anthony Sorronda**, a teacher at the Nato National High School in Sindangan, Zamboanga Del Norte and coach of the Region 9 elementary football team;
- **Orlando Abuyen**, substitute teacher at the Catbalogan II Central Elementary School in Samar, and coach of the Region 8 baseball team;
- **Manolito Rejano**, a teacher at the Mulanay District school in Quezon province and coach of the Region 4-A baseball team;
- **Hilda Lagana**, Grade 6 adviser at the Kalasan Elementary School in Pagadian City;
- **Ruperto Dayo**, principal of Kalasan Elementary School;
- **Getta Galo**, Grade 5 teacher at the Sindangan Pilot Demonstration School in Sindangan, Zamboanga del Norte;
- **Lydia Carumba**, also a teacher at the same school;
- **Anafe Colita**, also a teacher of the same school;
- **Virgie Sorronda**, district supervisor in Sindangan, Zamboanga del Norte;
- **Remigio Luy**, principal at the Sindangan Pilot Demonstration School, and;
- **Marietta Opulencia**, athletic manager of Region 4-A.

The officials were found guilty of dishonesty, misconduct and falsification of official documents.

The 16 overaged students were identified as college students Nelson Abuntao and a certain Dingdong; Jonquil Cabanas, Nicodemus Baconawa, Alexis Clemente and Rolando Aguilar of the Samar National High School; Ryldred Magaso, Eddie Ugdamina, Kevin Rojonan, and Melvin Maso of the Sindangan National High School; Raniel Osmillo, Rannel Loyola, Jayson Fetalcorin, Mark Rocha, Robert Calderon, and Mark Lester Garbo.

PAGUNSAN

Pagunsan fires 68, climbs to 3rd spot

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, BRUNEI—JUVIC Pagunsan birdied the 17th hole anew yesterday to preserve a three-under-par 68 and climb to joint third in the $300,000 Brunei Open at the Empire Hotel and Country Club course.

Counting his first-round 66, Pagunsan had a 36-hole total of 134, just a stroke off the 133 of co-leaders Lin Wen-tang of Chinese Taipei and Michael Wright of Australia.

Lin shot a spotless 63, spiked with eight birdies, to match the course record set by Malaysia's Danny Chia in the event's inaugural staging last year and tie Wright, who shot a 66.

Tony Lascuña and Artemio Murakami shot 69 and 71, respectively, and were the only other Filipinos to make the 36-hole cut pegged at 141.

Lascuña was at 139, six shots off the pace, while Murakami was at 140.

Cookie LaO bowed out despite a 69 (142), narrowly missing the 141 cutoff mark. Also out of it are Mars Pucay (71-146), Angelo Que (69-146), Danny Zarate (73-47), Jerome Delariarte (73-147), Gerald Rosales (79-51), Leonardo Estrera (81-54) and Josefino Hernandez (78-76).

Fagged-out Ginebra Kings drop third straight Brunei Cup match

By June Navarro

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN—BARANGAY Ginebra is slowly falling prey to exhaustion.

Playing their fourth straight game in as many days, the battle-weary Gin Kings fell to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia All-Stars, 85-79, last night in the 6th Shell Rimula Brunei Cup at the National Indoor Stadium here.

After a triumphant debut against the Jordan All-Stars, the Gin Kings have now dropped their last three outings—all of them too close to call until the fading moments.

"We're lacking in some positions so the tendency was to play our key players for longer minutes," said Barangay Ginebra coach Jong Uichico. "Fatigue has started to set in."

Flashing identical 1-3 records with Jordan and the KSA All-Stars, the Gin Kings have no recourse but to defeat the Darwin All-Stars and pray that the Jordanians and the Saudis come out flat in their final elimination-round assignments for a trouble-free entry into the semifinals.

The San Miguel-RP Team has already cemented its grip on the top seeding in the crossover semifinals while the SK Knights and the Darwin All-Stars are also assured of seats in the next round.

Aside from the wear-and-tear brought about by the daily competition, the Gin Kings have been forced to plug loopholes in their guard rotation after playmaker Egay Echavez hurt his knee against the SK Knights two nights ago.

"I will not make any excuses. We could have still won the game but we failed to convert those timely baskets in the end," said Uichico.

That's what exactly happened last night when the Gin Kings missed several momentum-shifting baskets while the KSA All-Stars were having a field day from beyond the arc on the other end.

Raed Al Derees topscored with 28 points and his eight triples typified the KSA All-Stars' scoring binge from three-point territory. The Saudis converted 16 of 43 attempts.

In contrast, the Gin Kings struggled from afar, making only eight of their 26

FAGGED-OUT/ A22

Guioguio, DM pull Luzvimin sweep

CEBU—LOVELYN GUIOGUIO AND HER DEL Monte team didn't waver in a final round where they simply outclassed their pursuers, completing a sweep of the Diamond division team and individual titles in the WGAP Luzvimin Golf Invitational at the Cebu Country Club course here yesterday.

With Guioguio, a scholar of the Ateneo Golf Foundation studying at Xavier, sparkling with another 55 points, Del Monte tallied 191 for the day and cruised to an 11-point win over host Cebu Country Club as provincial teams upstaged their Manila rivals.

Eva Miñoza added 49 points, Marian Woo carded 47 and Nenita Guioguio chipped in 40 for the other Del Monte scores. Inday Miñoza and Maribel San Miguel didn't count with their 33 and 31, respectively. Inday is the mother and Eva the younger sister of local professional star Frankie.

Pamplona and Riviera, meanwhile, coasted to victories in the two other divisions of the tourney organized by Women's Golf Association of the Philippines and sponsored by Philippine Airlines.

Pamplona, made up of Farah de Asis, Gigi Frokjear, Ana Montenegro, Amanda Vicente, Catherine Ponce de Leon and Mita Dee Escano, scored a final day 157 for a 452 total and an eight-point win over Alabang (151-444) in the Ruby division.

Riviera's Marthy Fernando, Beng Ibo, Corazon Fyfe, Mina Gillott, Josie Amon and Cynthia Alanique routed their foes in the Pearl division with a 456 total for 54 holes. They finished 41 points ahead of Negros and far ahead of Philippine Navy (401).

Guioguio successfully defended the individual crown in runaway fashion, beating teammate Eva Minoza and Regine de Guzman by 12 with her 164 for three days.

Del Monte's Marian Woo took the Class A title, Nancy Ortiga won the Class B plum and Artie Mediana of Aguinaldo captured the Class C trophy.

Sta. Elena could only score 181 and settled for third at 564. Manila Southwoods, last year's champion, rallied to salvage fourth place at 564 a point ahead of Wack Wack.

Bayron closes out with 70, clinches 5th in Singapore

SINGAPORE—FILIPINO JAY BAYron closed out with a second straight one-under-par 70 and landed fifth in the individual competition of the Singapore Open Amateur Championship ruled by Chiragh Kumar of India at the Singapore Island Country Club's Bukit course here yesterday.

The 28-year-old Bayron blew his title chances when he muffed four birdie putts inside five feet, settling for a 34-36 round and a four-day aggregate of 281.

That was six shots behind Kumar, who held off James Gill of New Zealand with clutch birdies to capture top honors with a 275 after a 69. Gill shot a 67 for a 276 as New Zealand missed a sweep of the team and individual titles.

The Kiwis rallied from five shots down to cop the team championship Thursday with dethroned champion the Philippines finishing third behind Sri Lanka.

Ferdinand Aunzo was the only other Filipino who finished in the top 10, rallying for a two-under 69 that pushed him to joint seventh.

Dolphins keep twice-to-beat hopes afloat

By Marc Anthony Reyes

GAMES WEDNESDAY (*Ninoy Aquino Stadium*)
12 nn—San Sebastian vs JRU (Jrs/Srs)
4 p.m.—Mapua vs San Beda (Srs)

JASON CASTRO PROVIDED a spark in the fourth quarter as the Philippine Christian Dolphins pulled off a 59-48 decision over the Letran Knights yesterday to stay in the running for the semifinal incentive in the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

The Dolphins improved to 9-4 to stay in contention for the crucial twice-to-beat edge in the Final Four.

The Knights entered the game needing just one win in their final two games to claim the same edge but fell to 10-3 instead.

Slashing his way through the lanes, Castro fired nine of his 17 points in the final period.

Top-ranked San Beda Lions already claimed the first twice-to-beat advantage.

Earlier, host St. Benilde salvaged something from its gloomy campaign by escaping with a 68-66 double overtime victory over Perpetual Help.

The Dolphins came out hot in the payoff period, storming to a 50-43 lead after seven straight points from Castro.

Castro came through with a fastbreak layup, followed by a triple. He then sank two free throws to hand PCU the lead, six minutes left.

Aaron Aban hit a twinner for Letran after that but there was no stopping PCU anymore.

The game was delayed for 40-minutes due to the leaky roof of Ninoy Aquino Stadium. League officials also decided to postpone the juniors game between the Baby Dolphins and the Squires.

Though out of the running and in danger of finishing the tourney in the lowest rung, the Blazers displayed energy all game long to fish out only their second victory in 13 games. The Altas fell to 4-9.

The scores:

SECOND GAME (srs)

ST. BENILDE 68—Urra Jr. 14, Layug 11, Sevilla 11, Aldover 9, Robles 5, Johnston 4, Manding 4, Libunao 4, Urra III 3, Umias 3, Manlapaz 0, Trillo 0, Devaras 0, David 0.

PERPETUAL 66—Kong 16, Reyes 12, Misa 10, Galabin 9, Manuel 6, Lee 6, Mendoza 4, Perturbos 3, Racho 0, Manalang 0.

Quarters: 17-6, 31-27, 44-40, 60-60 1OT, 68-66 2OT.

THIRD GAME (srs)

PCU 59—Espinas 18, Castro 17, David 11, Garrido 5, Amparado 4, Vidal 2, Belga 2, Chien 0, McCoy 0, Santos 0.

LETRAN 48—Bautista 14, Aban 12, Mondragon 10, Faundo 4, Balneg 3, Jazul 2, Realista 2, Dangcal 1, Daa 0, Guevarra 0, Quinday 0.

Quarters: 9-12, 32-26, 43-41, 59-48.

PCU's Gabby Espinas challenges Letran's Michael Realista. RUDY ESPERAS

One less worry for Pacquiao

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

PETER CHANLIONG, Chief Operating Officer of Solar Entertainment, which is supposed to cover the Manny Pacquiao-Erik Morales fight in Las Vegas, has confirmed reports that the TV rights have been given to ABS-CBN.

In effect, Solar gave the rights to ABS-CBN through Top Rank Promotions.

Solar, which aired the first two Pacquiao-Morales fights, has a contract with Top Rank to air the third encounter.

However, when Pacman's promotions outfit Manny Pacquiao Promotions or MPP sealed a contract with ABS-CBN for the coverage of the Pacquiao-Oscar Larios fight, it was stipulated in the agreement that the next Pacquiao event would be awarded to the network.

This next event is the second rematch with El Terrible.

***

To give way to Manny's wishes, and to save him from a possible legal for failure to honor his commitment, Solar has agreed to go into some kind of a compromise.

Through Top Rank, Solar has given ABS-CBN permission to air the Nov. 18 fight.

"This move is in deference to Manny's wishes and to get him off a legal bind," said Peter. MPP, he explained, had "sold" a commodity which it didn't own—Solar's TV rights to the fight.

"We could have gone to court to enforce our legal rights but we have chosen not to. We don't want to be viewed as obstructionists," Peter said.

***

To make everybody happy, the Pacquiao-Morales III pie will therefore be divided into two parts—more or less equal, give or take a few thousand dollars.

While the main piece—the television coverage itself—will go to ABS-CBN, the fringes will be left to Solar. These will include the cable rights or the rights to telecast for Solar and Solar Sports, the pay-per-view rights, the DVD/VCD rights, and last but not least, the closed circuit rights to theaters and public venues.

At the end of the day, it would be interesting to know which party generates the bigger net revenue.

***

Word is out that the lifting of the Fiba ban on the Philippines is moot and academic, but I'm not about to believe this until after the Fiba Central Board meeting on Aug. 27.

It is the board which will vote for the lifting of this ban, and until this is made official, I choose to stay quiet.

Incidentally, is it true that Fiba secretary Patrick Baumann has rescinded the letter he has written to the POC inviting officers to attend the World Congress in Japan, where they will be given a chance to speak for 10 minutes during the Central Board meeting?

My friends from the BAP said it won't be known until the day of the meeting itself, if the POC will be allowed to speak.

Anyway, all parties are flying to Japan over the weekend to attend what promises to be a pivotal Fiba Central Board meeting.

Did I hear it right? Is Graham Lim a representative of the Central Board?

***

PBA fans are excited about the plans for 'PBA Entertainment.'

However, it looks like the PBA concept is not exactly what they have in mind.

Fans who have been calling us on radio are one in their request. They want to see a rerun of the PBA's greatest games since 32 years back.

The games need not be full length, they said. Portions will do.

***

After seven years, NBA cager Tracy McGrady, who now wears the Houston Rockets jersey, is coming back to Manila for a short visit.

Tracy was not as big a star as he is now when Adidas first brought him here in 1999, while he was playing for the Orlando Magic.

T-Mac has an unprecedented lifetime contract with Adidas.

STANDINGS	W	L
*Ateneo	8	0
*Univ. of East	7	2
Santo Tomas	4	5
Far Eastern	4	6
Adamson	3	5
National	3	6
Univ. of Phils.	2	6

*semifinalist

GAMES TODAY
(*Ninoy Aquino Stadium*)
10 a.m.—UP vs UE (Jrs)
11:30 a.m.—Adamson vs NU (Jrs)
2 p.m.—FEU vs Ateneo (Jrs)
4 p.m.—AdU vs UP (Srs)

Falcons, Maroons try to boost chances

THE ADAMSON FALCONS AND THE UNIVERsity of the Philippines Maroons will try to breathe life into their sagging UAAP bids when they clash in the lone senior basketball match at 4 p.m. today at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

"We have to strengthen our goal to get into the Final Four," said Falcons coach Leo Austria. "Before we said it's achievable, but we have a long way to go. A lot of things can still happen."

Every game remains crucial for the Falcons and the Maroons, who are battling with three other teams for the last two semifinal slots.

The Ateneo Eagles cruised to their eighth straight win to claim the first twice-to-beat incentive in the Final Four.

Also on a roll, the University of the East Warriors secured the second semifinal slot last Thursday.

Unlike the front-runners, the Falcons and the Maroons need to work on their end-game composure to move up the team standings.

In recent losses, both the Falcons (3-5) and the Maroons (2-6) collapsed against the Eagles in the closing minutes.

The Falcons absorbed a heartbreaking 66-65 setback versus the league leader, while the Maroons dropped a 98-88 decision.

Still, both squads drew huge games from their veterans. Maroons point guard Marvin Cruz posted the season's first triple-double with 22 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists.

Ken Bono dominated the paint with 21 markers and 10 boards for the Falcons.

The Maroons, though, may have a tough time shackling Bono minus the hulking presence of Ira Buyco, who will be serving a one-game suspension for elbowing Ateneo's Macky Escalona.

The Falcons will gun for a double-round sweep after slipping past the Maroons, 85-83, in their first encounter. *Jasmine W. Payo*

Catiil brothers top Speedo Oro NAGT

BROTHERS NICK AND VIC Catiil ruled the 19-and-under category in the Cagayan de Oro leg of the 2006 Speedo National Age Group Triathlon recently.

Other winners of the 1 km swim-30 km bike-7 km run were Joey Rana and Gerrie Calinawan (20-24 years old), Edson Blanco and Joshua Inciong (25-29), Cebu's comebacking Abet Biagan and Roy Janubas (30-34), Gregorio Borlongan and Edward Afurong (35-39), Adolfo Minoza and Wilson Lu (40-44), Anastacio Bunal and Al Manaloto (45-49), Antonio Arat and Jose Santos (50-54), Jaime Sindiong (55 and above).

Joan Manaloto topped the women's category with a time of two hours and nine minutes.

Over 100 triathletes from Davao, Cebu, Iligan City, Angeles City and Bukidnon joined the race that was fired off at the Chali Beach Resort and passed through barangays Cugman, Gusa, Tabon and Agusan.

The next legs are slated on Sept. 17 at the Lakeshore Residential Resort in Mexico, Pampanga, and Oct. 20 at Ayala Alabang Village in Muntinlupa.

Registration forms are available at Speedo Concept Stores in Megamall, Ayala Town Center, Glorietta and Podi

Trap director Jose Eviza and staff Fabie David assisted the organizers led by race director Wilson Lu, coordinator Al Manaloto and Herbalife's Carol Jeung.

NICK Catiil pours it on.

SPORTSWATCH

Jota-Tiu showdown looms

DAVE JOTA OF BLANCHE RACING AND JONATHAN TIU OF TEAM ERE gear up for another intense showdown as the 2006 Red Horse National Drag Racing Championship stages the fifth leg today, Aug. 26, at the Drag Strip of the Batangas Racing Circuit. Only 10 points separates the two ace drag race drivers as they try to fortify their bids for the coveted Drag Racing Driver of the Year award in this event sponsored by Red Horse Beer, San Miguel Corporation and supported by Pilipinas Shell, Denso, Yokohama, Casino Filipino and Sparco.

John O wins twice in Espiritu Cup

JOHN O CHALKED UP TWO MORE LOPSIDED TRIUMPHS RECENTLY TO improve its record to 6-1 in the 10th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament at the Lyceum gym. John O walloped Laptop Pawnshop, 84-66, and then overwhelmed Lyceum, 86-67, to pace the eight-team tourney organized by well-known cage agent Danny Espiritu. King's Bakeshop also won twice, but failed to gain headway after falling to 5th Avenue, 82-91, in its third game.

Las Piñas derby gets going

THE SEASON OPENER CHAMPION WILL BE CROWNED TODAY AS THE Las Piñas 6-stag derby finals kicks off at the Las Piñas Coliseum with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. Boxing champ Manny Pacquiao and nine others lead the qualifiers after posting two wins each on Thursday's jampacked opening round. Also gunning for the title are Patrick Antonio, Benjie Lim, R. Pineda, Rudy Albano, former Sen. Ramon Revilla, Mike Frias and Mayor Nene Aguilar. For details, call 8731040, 8743910 and 0926-7450375.

Fagged-out Kings drop 3rd straight game

From page A21

three-point shots, six of them courtesy of Sunday Salvacion.

Anchored on Mark Caguioa, Eric Menk and Salvacion's torrid outside shooting, the Gin Kings sprang back from a 38-31 halftime deficit and took a seven-point cushion at one point before Derees led the Saudis' barrage of triples.

But while both teams shot pretty well from the perimeter, errors hurt the Kings most. The Kings had 21 turnovers compared to the KSA All-Stars' seven miscues.

The Saudis made a near-excellent account of themselves after going 15 of 21 from two-point range for a 71-percent clip. The Gin Kings made 59 percent of their attempts (23 of 39) from the same area.

With Echavez nursing a hurting knee, free-agent Christian Coronel was shoved into the starting lineup and directed traffic for the Gin Kings for extended minutes. Jayjay Helterbrand, Ginebra's starting point guard, is still in the injury list.

"We need another point guard and an off guard in the rotation," said Uichico.

The scores:

KSA ALL-STARS 85—Derees 28, Madani 17, Kabe 12, Alhuwaify 9, Fallata 8, Gassas 4, Ibrahim 4, Mukhtar 3, Al Sagar 0, Shamrani 0, Hawsawi 0, Fotawi 0.

GINEBRA 79—Salvacion 22, Caguioa 19, Menk 12, Mamaril 10, Coronel 5, Adducul 4, Macapagal 3, Reavis 2, Seigle 2, Echavez 0, Salangsang 0.

RP Davis Cup stars crack Asia's Top 50

By Dennis U. Eroa
Libre sports editor

THAILAND'S PARADORN SRICHAPAN, who once belonged to the world's top 10, remained as Asia's No. 1 player, even as three Filipino Davis Cuppers made it to the top 50 in the latest rankings released by the Association of Tennis Professionals.

Southeast Asian Games singles gold medalist Cecil Mamiit, who is ranked No. 222 in the world, emerged as Asia's No. 8 netter, while world No. 380 Eric Taino made it to the 20th spot.

Taino, like Mamiit, won two gold medals in the Manila SEA Games.

Young Patrick John Tierro gained a world ranking of 814, good enough to enter Asia's top 50 at No. 48.

Tierro, who is supported by sportsman-businessman Jean Henri Lhuillier, is fresh off an impressive showing in both the Thailand and Indonesian futures events where he reached the quarterfinals.

With several tour points still officially unregistered, the Subic Bay Tennis Academement netter is due to move up to No. 790 in the ATP rankings. That will also raise his Asian standing.

Mamiit, Taino, Tierro and Johnny Arcilla helped the Philippines return to the Davis Cup Group II for 2007 next year after winning—without dropping a match—the Group III Asian-Oceana competition among eight countries at the Manila Polo Club last May.

"My heart goes to Cecil and Eric for their sacrifices in taking time off their tour duties to play for their homeland," said former ATP Tour and Davis Cup player Beeyong Sison.

Sison is no stranger to the ATP Tour's volatile ranking system, in which a few ATP points can influence tournament organizers in inviting players to their events.

Following closely as Asia's number two is Korea's Lee Hung-taik, the world No. 70. Ranked third is Wang Yeu-Tzuo (109), of Chinese-Taipei, while Thailand Danai Udomchoke (119) and Taiwanese Lu, Yen-Hsun (134) are ranked fourth and fifth, respectively.

Completing Asia's top 10 are Uzbekistan's Denis Istomin (188), Japan's Soeda, Go (191), Mamiit, Uzbekistan's Dustov, Farrukh (238) and Kazakhstan's Alexey Kedriouk (263).

MAMIIT: World No. 222, Asia's No. 8

TAINO: World No. 380, Asia's No. 20

Ariel sparkles as Irok foils Vintage for futsal crown

MARIGEN ARIEL BLASTED IN TWO SUCCESsive goals in the 39th minute as Irok Football Club bested Vintage FC, 3-1, over the weekend to capture the ladies division crown via a resounding sweep in the 2006 Adidas Futsal Championships at the Blue Eagle Gym in Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Ariel joined forces with Ria Tanjuangco, whose single goal in the 24th minute tied the score at 1-1 after Joyce Landagan had broken the ice for Vintage in the 19th minute.

Irok's win was its eighth straight in the tournament sponsored by Adidas and co-presented by Cherifer Multivitamin, Snickers Chocolate Bar Blue Angel Alcohol, Powerade and Viva Mineral Water in cooperation with the National Capital Region Football Association.

In the only other women's match, De La Salle University won by default over Archers650 to clinch third place.

In the men's First Division, powerhouse squads Army and Air Force posted contrasting wins to stay on course for a championship clash.

Army scraped past Navy, 6-5, while Air Force easily disposed of Veterans FC, 6-2, to remain 1-2 in their division. Army improved its mark to a league-best 10-1-0 (win-draw-loss), while Air Force moved up to 8-1-1.

Navy, meanwhile, dropped out of contention after absorbing its sixth loss (1-2-6). Veterans also also took its sixth loss in eight games.

In other results, University of Asia and the Pacific downed El Magistrado, 8-5, to make it to the Finals of the men's Second Division, while men's First Division teams Pasargad (2-2-6) and Superfriends (3-1-4) battled to a 2-2 draw.

Accel 3-point shoot-out starts today

THE WESTERN NATIONAL CAPITOL Region leg of the Accel 3-point Shoot-out Challenge will kick off at 1 p.m. today at the World Trade Center, Pasay City.

The top five qualifiers will join Southern NCR leg winners Gerard Patrick Amuyo, Erwin Santos, Mark dela Cruz, Jed-Gen Adelfo de Joya and Jonathan Dalida in the national finals.

Amuyo of Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasay shot 28 points to rule the Southern NCR qualifier on Aug. 5 at the Festival Supermall in Alabang, Muntinlupa. Santos finished with 23 markers, while Dela Cruz posted 22 markers.

The 3-point shoot-out challenge is open to 16 to 19-year-old male students.

Winners will receive medals, P3,000 cash and P3,000 worth of Accel products, while runners-up will get P1,500 and P1,500 worth of Accel products. A bonus of P500,000 cash will be awarded to participants who score a perfect 30 points during the 60-second time limit.

Maga tops Cordillera chess

BAGUIO CITY—NATIONAL MASTER MIRABEAU Maga completed a wire-to-wire victory in the 2006 Cordillera Open Chess Championship at the Baguio Country Club here. Maga took the scalp of fellow NM Rolando Nolte in the eighth and drew with FIDE Master Adrian Pacis in the ninth and final round Thursday round to bag the championship trophy and the P40,000 top prize. He finished with 7.5 points, edging International Master Jayson Gonzales and Grandmaster Eugene Torre, who both finished with 7.0 points. *NM Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

RP Rotax Max team berths at stake in series

CARAPIET

THE ROTAX MAX 2007 Philippine National Team Selection Series begins tomorrow at the Carmona Circuit Philippines in Cavite, with the biggest names in local karting vying for slots in the three-man team.

Tapped to race in the series are 2006 Rotax Invitational Challenge champion Ivan Carapiet, two-time Philippine Rotax Max World Championship representative Marlon Stockinger, All Star Karting Invitational titlist Mark Bumgarner, former Karter of the Year Matteo Guidicelli, European Championship and Super Karting Series campaigner Stefano Marcelo, Indy Villalon, Oliver "Wild Thang" Aquino, local karting princess Alessandra Madrigal, Maico Angeles and up-and-coming Daniel Cleak.

The event, organized by Alessandra Racing Inc., is a four-round series for the Rotax FR125 Max Senior class. The top three overall finishers will make up the 2007 RP Team, which will compete in the Rotax Max races in Thailand, Malaysia and Belgium (or Italy) next year. The other three rounds are set Nov. 19 and 26 and Dec. 3 at Carmona.

Cebu's Milo run to draw record field

THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST MILO MARATHON elimination race fires off tomorrow with local organizers sure of breaking its own record number entries.

In 2004, Cebu City set the standard when it registered a total of 17,789 runners in the 3K, 5K and 21K events.

The man credited for the record—Cebu City Sports Center manager Ricky Ballesteros, then the new local organizer of the marathon—surpassed himself again last year, when 19,320 runners competed in the eliminations.

Cebu aims to breach the 20,000-runner barrier with tomorrow's staging of the 16th elimination race of the 30th National Milo Marathon.

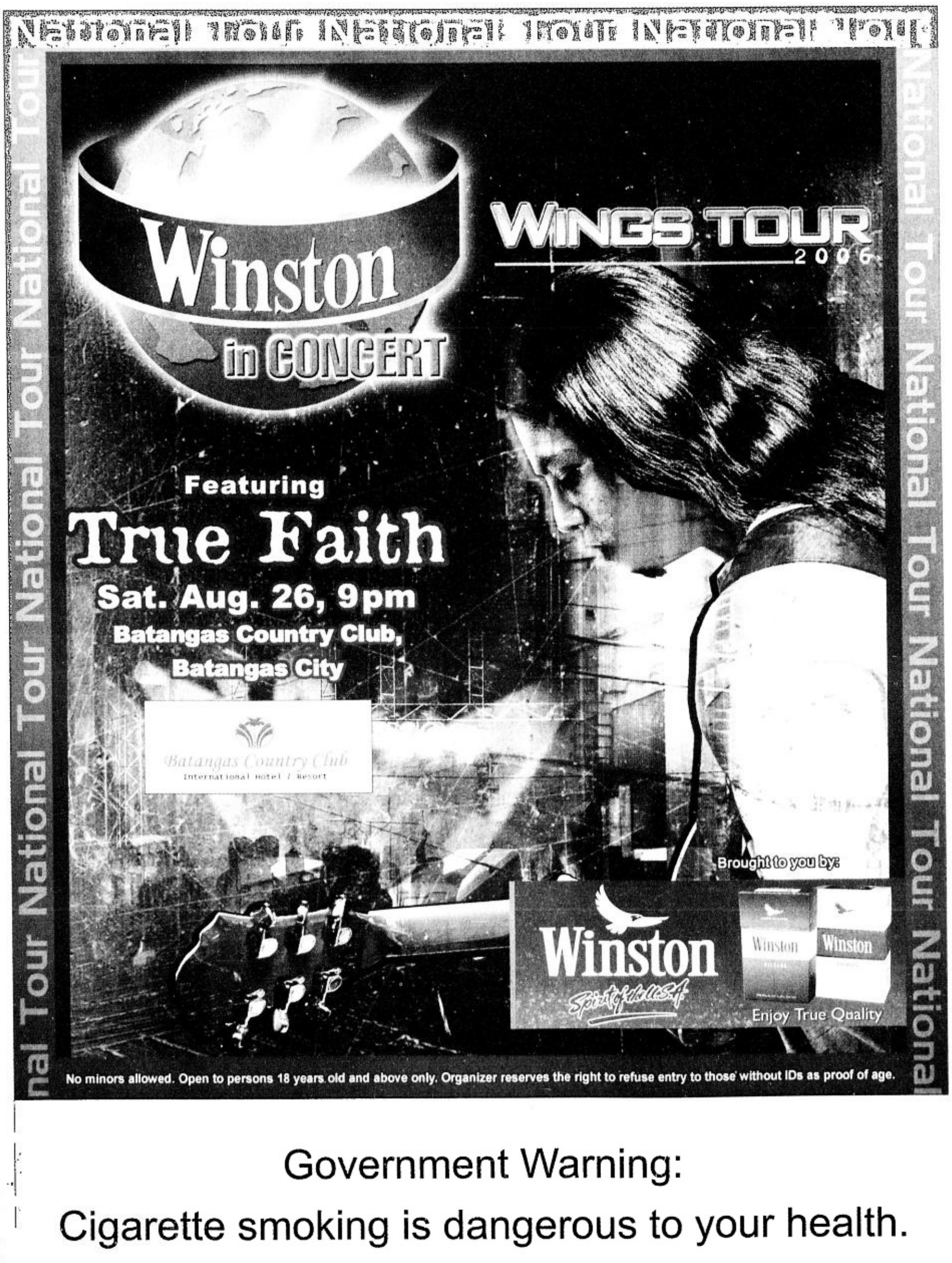
Ballesteros promises to bring in 20,500 runners this time in the race held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Department of Tourism and Powerbar.

Milo Sports executive Pat Goc Ong said Nestle business executive manager Eugene David and Milo consumer marketing manager Michelle Calo Alvarillo will be on hand to award the prizes.

The race will start at 6 a.m. on Osmeña Boulevard and finish inside the Cebu City Sports Center.

The top three finishers in the men's and women's 21K will advance to the 42K national finals slated Dec. 10 in Metro Manila.

Meanwhile, national race director Rudy Biscocho said that the top 10 finishers in the 5K and 21K events in the previous 15 legs are no longer qualified to join the succeeding races.



Government Warning:

Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

SPORTS

'ONE AND DONE'

Hoop heavyweights ready for showdown

CARMELO Anthony and the United States squad are in a fighting mood. REUTERS

SAITAMA, JAPAN—ARGENTINA, SPAIN, Greece and the US take unbeaten records into the second round of the World Championships but that will count for nothing in the knockout phase where one defeat sends a team home empty-handed.

As the championship shifts to Saitama, north of Tokyo, for the final 16 this weekend, the title contenders will be wary of upsets with New Zealand's unexpected run to the final four and the stunning collapse of the US in 2002 serving as warnings.

The US, looking to end a barren spell of six years without an Olympic or world title, cruised through their group to set up a clash with Australia.

"Were ready to move on to Tokyo and take care of business," said US forward Elton Brand.

With a lineup of NBA all-stars led by Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James and Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade, the Americans have played with enthusiasm and conviction but have also been guilty of lapses of concentration.

While the Americans have had their eyes on gold since arriving in Japan, Mike Krzyzewski will make it clear to his men that they cannot look past an Australian squad led by Andrew Bogut of the Milwaukee Bucks.

"I'm going to have to explain to our players it's 'one and done,' this is not a seven-game NBA series," Krzyzewski said. "We have to be ready for each game."

Spain enters the knockout phase playing with purpose and flair, riding the momentum of a 14-game unbeaten streak.

But like the country's underachieving footballers, Spain's basketball team has a history of falling short at the big event having never won a world championship or Olympic title.

Led by Memphis Grizzlies all-star Pau Gasol, the Iberians face a major test when they take on defending champions Serbia & Montenegro, who after losing their opening three games have begun to show flashes of their pedigree.

Olympic champions Argentina, led by San Antonio Spurs guard Manu Ginobili, blitzed through group play a perfect 5-0, winning their opening three games by more than 30 points.

"We feel great. We beat France and Serbia, two of the top 10 teams in the world," Argentina coach Sergio Hernandez said.

"Now the World Championships begin."

Next up for the Argentines is a New Zealand team that has suddenly found its stride following a stumbling start to the tournament.

The Tall Blacks had looked poised for an early exit after dropping their opening three contests but rallied with back-to-back wins over Japan and Panama and head to Saitama believing they can repeat their performance of four years.

European champions Greece achieved their perfect record with efficient but unspectacular play, while their next opponent China needed 36 points from Yao Ming and a buzzer-beating three-pointer from Wang Shipeng to edge Slovenia, 78-77, and squeeze through.

Other second-round clashes include African champions Angola, the surprise package, against France. *Reuters*

RP's Salvador boosts Grandmaster hopes

FILIPINO FIDE MASTER ROLAND Salvador bested local star Giuseppe Voltolini in the sixth round on Thursday to rev up his GM title bid in the 2006 International Chess Tournament in Bratto, Italy.

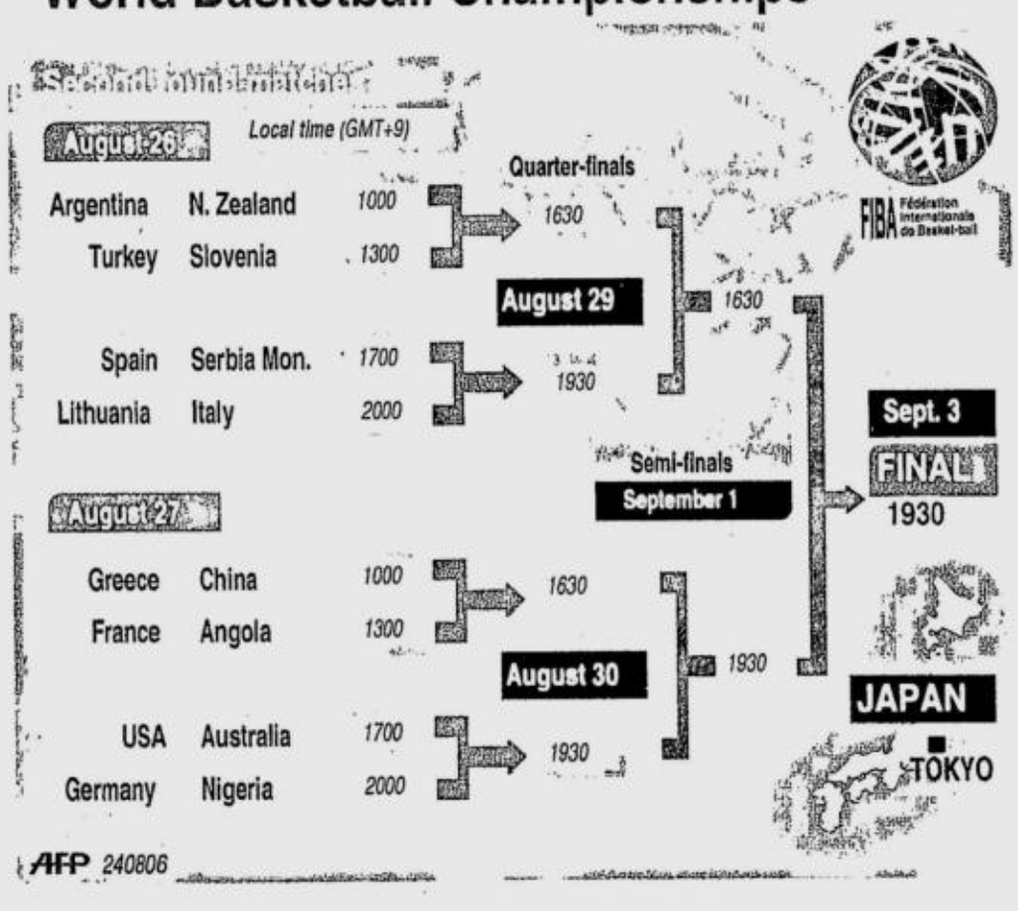
The 24-year-old Salvador, who needs only one more GM result to become a full-fledged Grandmaster, won after 36 moves of a Catalan Opening and improved his total to 4.5 points.

The Milan-based Salvador climbed to a tie for 5th to 18th places with top seed GM Vladimir Epishin of Russia, second seed GM Gyula Sax of Hungrary, GM Michele Godena of Italy, GM Milan Drasko of Serbia and Montenegro and nine others.

GM Miso Cebalo of Croatia and GM Dimitri Komarov of Ukraine hurdled their Italian foes to catch up with overnight co-leaders GM Erald Dervishi of Albania and GM Atila Grozpeter of Hungary, who settled for a truce with Sax and Epishin, respectively. *NM Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Federer eyeing rare tennis hat-trick

NEW YORK—ROGER FEDERER WILL BE GUNNING TO PASS YET ANOTHER milestone when he opens the defense of his US Open title at Flushing Meadows next week. Seven straight wins over the two weeks will make him only the third man in the professional era to notch up a hat-tick of titles in the year's final major, drawing him level with legends John McEnroe (1979-81) and Ivan Lendl (1985-85). And having just turned 25, it will bring him ever nearer to the holy grail of 14 wins in the four Grand Slam events held by Pete Sampras. The Swiss star currently has eight wins in Grand Slam tournaments. *AFP*



Bridgestone: Scott leads; Woods lurks

AKRON, OHIO—FOUR DAYS AFTER CLOSING with a 67 for his best finish in a major, Adam Scott made nine birdies over his last 12 holes Thursday for a 7-under 63, giving him a two-shot lead over Jason Gore and four shots clear of Tiger Woods in the US PGA Tour's Bridgestone Invitational.

Scott made his charge too late Sunday at Medinah to have any shot in the PGA Championship, where he tied for third.

Too bad they don't award the trophy on Thursday. But the 26-year-old Australian appears headed in that direction, especially the way he kept his tee shots in the short grass at Firestone South, which enabled him to fire at the flags.

"That was my hope coming into this week, to keep playing like I did last week," Scott said.

Gore, who got into this World Golf Championship by winning the 84 Lumber Classic last year, played with an old friend from his junior golf days in California—Woods—and settled in quickly with a birdie-eagle-birdie start.

It was the first time Gore has played with Woods on the PGA Tour.

"It's the first time I've played with him since he's been Tiger," Gore said. "Last time I played with him, he was still Eldrick." *AP*

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Kid's TV	TBA						Letty La Mas Fea		Teka Mona		Rolly's Believe It Or Not		ABC Action Theater				Onstage	
ABS-CBN 2		Star Magic Presents		Ningning, Kapamilya		Let's Go		Komiks		John En Shirley		TV Patrol World	XXX		Asiong alog		Sahado Movie Greats		Sports Unlimited
AXN		Trapped				WRC 2006: Finland		30 Seconds To Fame	E Buzz	The Ultimate Fighter		The Contender (Season 1)		House (Season 10)		Numb3rs (Season 2)		Supernatural (Season 1)	
Cartoon Network	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	The Road Runner Show	Tom & Jerry Show	Bet Alien Planet Shelf Life Camp Lazlo Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy		Cow & Chicken/ Pet Alien Camp Lazlo Grim Adventures Of Mandy & Billy		Robotboy	The Simpsons	Barbie Fairytopia Barbie Fairytopia: Mermaidia Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears A Who! Hollywood Wy Dexter Jammed In Jamaica		Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons/ Power Rangers Dino Thunder	The Batman/ Gundam Seed Destiny	Power Rangers Dino Thunder/ The Simpsons	Gundam Seed/ The Break Show	Justice League Unlimited	Aqua Teen Hunger Force/ The Batman
Cinema One	Walang Iwanan Returns				Nasaan Ka Man				Now That I Have You								Bona		
Cinemax	A Twist Of The Knife (2:40 PM)			Jayposador (4:15 PM)			For Better Or Worse			The Stars Fell On Henrietta			Ang Pagbebalik Ng Probinsyano	A City In The Dark				Van Helsing	
CNN		World News		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News		World News	World Sport	World News				Talk Asia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Crime/Suspense		Masterminds	Forensic Files	Profiler		Psychic Detectives Power Zone	Body Of Evidence	What Should You Do?		Prison Break		Prison Break		E-Ring		Swordfish			
Discovery Channel				Why Intelligence Fails						Discovery Encore		Deadliest Catch		I Shouldn't Be Alive		A Haunting		Perfect Disaster	
Disney Channel	Art Attack/ Billy & Buddy	Totally Spies (New Saison Yr. 4)	Kim Possible	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	American Dragon	Emperor's New School	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven/ Legend Of Ring Of Fire Special	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN						Asian X Games '06 - Boulder(s)	Asian X Games '06 - Skiing - Climbing	LPGA Golf Wendy's Champ. for Children 2nd Rd. The O.C.3				The Best Of Century 100 Yrs of FIFA	Major League Baseball Friday						Motorsport Asia
ETC		Everwood 2		Friends 10	Will & Grace 4	Veronica Mars 2		The Biggest Loser 2		Beauty And The Geek 2		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Trading Spouses		Today Show - 1 Hour - Version		Dateline				NBC Nightly News		Skating With Celebrities		Inside The Actor's Studio		ER		NBC Nightly News	WSJR
EWTN	Visionaries, Mystics & Stigmatists	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Image Of God	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Knights Of St. Michael	Catholic Compass		Life Is Worth Living	The World Over Encore	Hollywood One On One	Celebrities Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Word Was Made Flesh	Voices On Virtue	Backstage	Life on The Rock	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Special Report With Brit Hume		Eco & Friends Saturday						Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	Forbes On Fox	Cashin' In
GMA 7	Startalk				Wish Ko Lang (12:20 PM)		Fastbreaks (5:20 PM)		Pinoy Pop Superstar		Pinoy's Funniest Videos (7:20 PM)		Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho		Imbestigador (9:05 PM)		Hokus Pokus (10:20 PM)		Showbiz Supped
Hallmark Channel		Stealing Sinatra			Fresh City (4:45 PM)				My Brother's Keeper				Gulliver's Travels			Gulliver's Travels (10:15 PM)			
HBO	Fear			50 First Dates (4:15 PM)				The Enemy Within			Shark Tale			Without A Paddle			Entourage 09: Boys Are Back In Town	Entourage 10: My Directorial Debut	Hard And Souls
Hero TV	Machine Robo-Rescue	Dear Boys	Demon Lord Dante	Bale The Grappler	Zenki	Rockman	Peacemaker	Sorcerer Orphen	Baram One	Babel II	Mars The Terminator G3	Japan Vidoo Topics Arts	Voltes V Evolution	Street Fighter OVA		Pilipinas Sabong Sports	Ragnarok	Demon Lord Dante	Bale The Grappler
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		EZ Shop	Auto Review	Getz Mo Getz Ko		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		EBC Earth Files		Wwe Raw		Bitag		Weekend At The D L	Reno 911	Iconomic With Dave Allen	Marshow
JackTV	My Name Is Earl	Always Sunny In Philadelphia		Last Comic Standing		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Daily Show Jon Stewart	X-Men	X-Men	The Batman		Justice League			Style Star	I Do Dianes		El Exena 101 Most Awesome Moments In Entertainment	
Lifestyle Network	Living Space	HGTV Special		Sheila Bridges: Designer Living	Radical Sabbatical	Simply Wine With Andrea Immer	Inside Dish	My Country, My Kitchen	Emeril Live			Iron Chef America	Merge						
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits	MTV Arena	MTV Pilipinas Video Music Awards 2006			Take 5	Radio MYX	Cribs	My Own	Laguna Beach	8th & Ocean	MTV Live: Pupil		MTV Hits		MTV Hits		Jams	Rockole
MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Bandarilo	MYX News	MYX Presents				Top Of The Pops	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	MYXilog
National Geographic	The Taiwan Touch Taiwan wild	The Living Edens: Big Sur California's Wild Coast		Qin-Emperor Of Eternity				Wild Indonesia: Where Worlds Collide		Hunter Hunted: Hitch Down Under		The Living Edens: Yellowstone Alpine Wild West		Tornado: Monsters of the Tornado				No Borders, A Town In Africa	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Bakukan Sa Tagaytay		Kamao		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Youth Voice Decide		GSIS Member's Hour		Isla Hour On NBN		A.S.K.		Krusada Kontra Kamon	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Apu Mga Nagsi-ayat Sa Dalig Dlaan		Ang Tunang Dlain		Net 25 Weekend Report	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Tribe	Convergence	Apu Mga Nagsi-ayat Sa Dalig Dlaan		Ang Pagbubuyog		Net 25 Weekend Report	Euromaxx	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Auto Motor Sport
Nickelodeon	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Just For Kicks	Catscratch	Avatar: Legend Of Aang	Danny Phantom	Trollz	SpongeBob Squarepants	Just For Kicks	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle	Girls in Love	The Amanda Show	The Brothers Garcia	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Tatong Anak, Isang Ama				Mandalena Town Homes				Mga Batang City Jail				Tarsan Vs. Tarzan				Celebration Of Love
Qtv		Lois And Clark		Galaxy Angels		Posh		Fans Kita		Ayill Robot		Day-Off		Sabado Showdown				Groupea TV	
RPN 9		Go Negosyo		Biyaheng Langit	Ride, Eat, Travel	Man & Machine		Isumbong Mo (Tulfo Brothers)		Blind Justice		CSI Miami		Saturday Night Playhouse					
SBN 21								Barangay Unang Hirit Chorus		Sonny Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Shepards Voice		Sonny Music Video	
Solar Sports				Badminton: 2006 JVC Open				NBA TV OT: 5 Million	WNCAA		GWS 33-2006	2006 FIBA World Cship. Games: Eight Finals Blocktimer				Superfights: J Cruz vs F Trejo			
Sports Plus						Racewworld		World Poker Tour Hollywood Home								This Is The PGA		The International Highlights	
Star Movies		The Tarzh (2:55 PM)			The Ticket (4:45 PM)	L Ricket (5:15 PM)		Life As We Know It		Shall We Dance (7:10 PM)				Noel			The Sweetest Thing		
Star World		Third Watch		Miami Vice		Philly		Sports TV	The Contender	Life As We Know It		TNA Xplosion		David Beckham		Enterprise		Theme Park Road Trip	
Studio 23										The Honeymoon (7:15 PM)		The Bachelorette		Barkada Nights					Reel Deal

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BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

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Trade deficit falls on improved economy

6-month gap narrows to $1.83B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES' TRADE DEFICIT SHRANK TO $1.83 billion in the first semester from $3.19 billion a year ago as robust earnings from electronics exports mitigated the impact of skyrocketing oil prices.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the country's import bill rose by 8.4 percent to $24.57 billion during the first six months, but this was more than offset by the 16.8-percent surge in export earnings to $22.74 billion.

Improved economic conditions also contributed to a significant fall in the country's trade deficit in June to $484 million from $852 million a year ago.

Merchandise imports in June rose 7.7 percent from a year earlier to $4.53 billion while exports grew 20.6 percent to $4.05 billion. Nearly half or 44.8 percent of the shipments to the country were electronics.

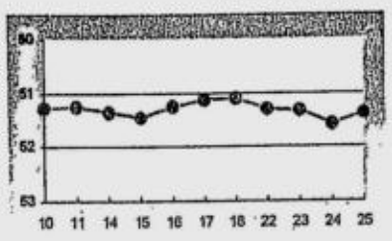
Total trade for the month grew 13.4 percent to $8.58 billion from last year, the NSO said.

David Cohen, director of Asian economic forecasting at Action Economics LLC in Singapore, said the trade figures for the first half "reflect a generally healthy trade sector and this will certainly contribute to overall economic

TRADE/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



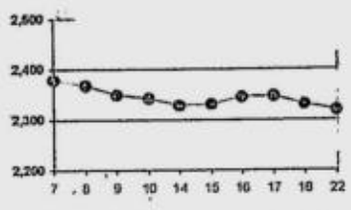
₱51.38 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 25, 2006

¥117.16 = $1
As of 3 p.m., Aug. 25, 2006

GOLD: $623.50-624.00
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 23, 2006

STOCK MARKET

Stocks fall to 1-month low



STOCKS FELL YESTERDAY FOR the fifth consecutive day to close at their lowest level in a month, hurt by losses in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and other blue chips.

(See stock market report on Page B2)

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index lost 39.56 points, or 1.7 percent, to close at 2,274.53, its worst finish since 2,267.67 on July 25. The index has lost 3 percent over the last five sessions.

STOCKS/ B2

PSALM gets nod to issue $700-M bonds

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS HAS given the state-controlled Power Sector Asset and Liabilities Corp. (PSALM) the go-ahead to sell $700 million in foreign bonds to refinance maturing debts.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday told reporters that the policy-making Monetary Board had approved the proposed external borrowings by PSALM, the agency tasked to dispose of National Power Corp.'s assets and assume its obligations under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira).

The size of the borrowing approximated Napocor's maturing obligations this year. About $200 million will cover part of the Yankee bond issued by Napocor in 1996 and maturing late this year while another $300 million is earmarked for other debts, particularly those that the national government did not absorb. The national government earlier assumed P200 billion of the state firm's debts.

PSALM/ B5

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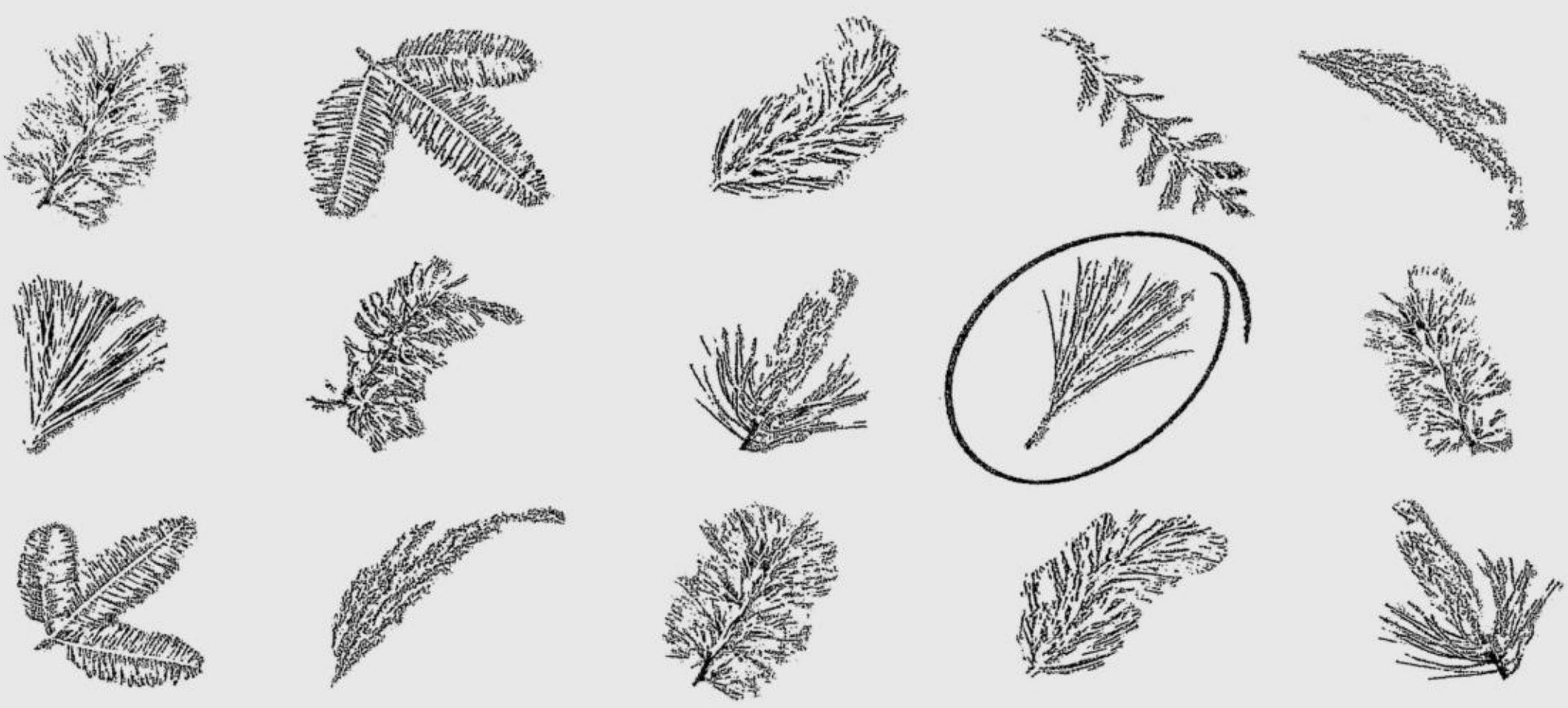
RP exporters urged to carve place in UK market /B14

Brittany



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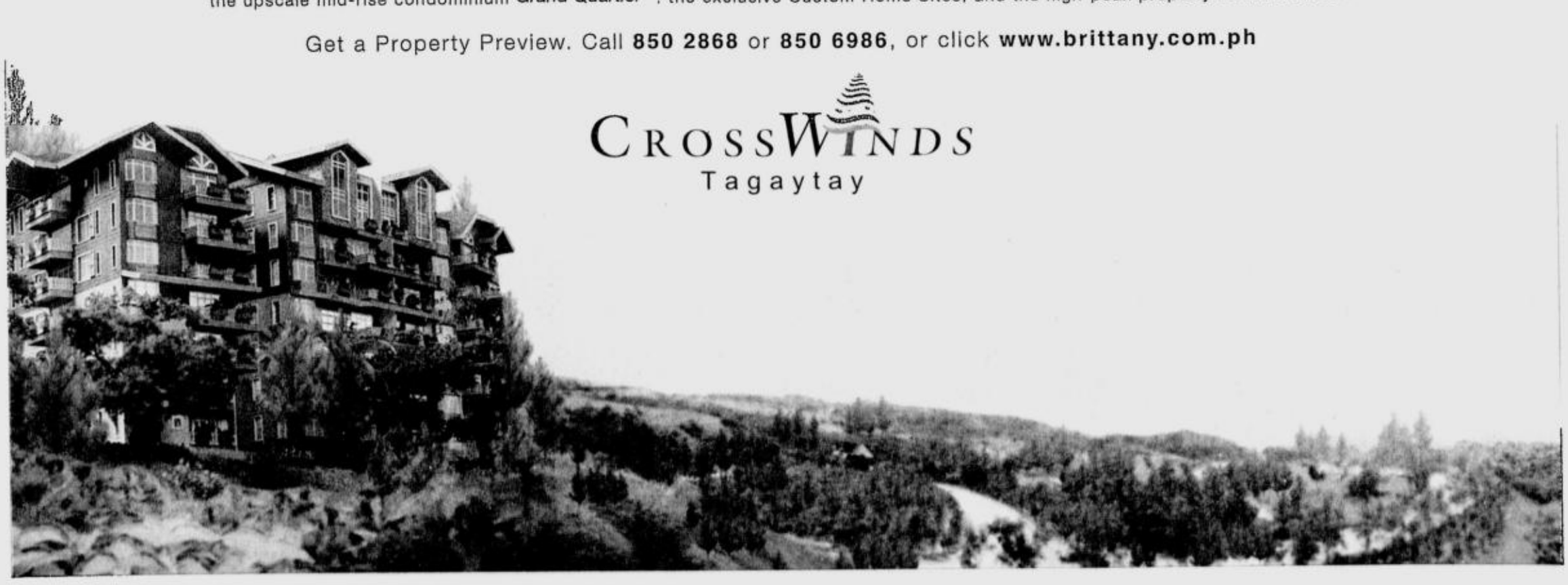

Aboitiz group seen investing $450M in power sector

Eyes bidding for Napocor assets

THE CEBU-BASED ABOITIZ CONGLOMERate is expected to invest about $450 million into its core business of power generation within the next three years.

Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. chief operating officer Erramon Aboitiz told reporters during a media gathering Thursday night that the privatization of National Power Corp.'s assets would give the conglomerate the opportunity to raise its stake in the power generation business.

"In our projection, in the next three years, we're looking at about $450 million worth of projects in power," Aboitiz said.

About 60 percent of the projected investment could be financed through borrowings, Aboitiz said, depending on the specific projects that AEV could win through public bidding. The proposed fresh investment is estimated to add 500 megawatts to the group's power-generating capacity.

For now, AEV said its focus would be on hydro plants being bid out by Power Sector Asset and Liabilities Corp. (PSALM), the successor of Napocor by virtue of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act. AEV has tied up with Norweigian firm SN Power for these hydro projects on a 50-50 sharing basis.

AEV's priority projects also included the development of hydro plants in Davao.

"Hydro and renewable (sources of energy) have always been our focus but there are many places where you can't have hydros. Cebu for example, there's no hydro so your next option is coal," Aboitiz said.

He said AEV looked at the assets being offered for sale by US-based Mirant Corp. but found them too big to digest.

Depending on the terms, he said AEV would also be interested in the 600-MW Masinloc coal plant.

He explained that the $450 million that AEV was willing to sink in would exclude the additional capital that potential partners in the project could commit.

"These power assets on their own will be able to borrow money. When you buy hydros, you're not buying 100-percent equity so part of that $450 million will be financed by debt," he said.

Aboitiz said AEV could tap the offshore capital market depending on the assets that it would win during the bidding, ruling out options of pre-funding its investment requirements.

"When you're stuck with debt and you don't have an outlet, your negative carry is very expensive. Let's say you borrow $200 million at 8 percent and you don't win a project, you invest it at 5 percent so your negative carry is about 3 percent. That's $6 million a year that you'll lose," Aboitiz said.

"So our strategy is we're building a cash position. Once we win one of the projects we will raise the money. In the meantime, we've got a lot of (local) credit lines available," he said.

Aboitiz estimated the group's cash position at about P4 billion.

UCPB signs ₱3.3-B leisure estate deal

By Doris C. Dumlao

UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS Bank has entered into a P3.3-billion deal with leisure estate developer Tagaytay Grasslands Co. Inc. to redevelop a 26-hectare beachfront property in Nasugbu, Batangas, currently known as White Cove.

In a statement yesterday, UCPB first vice president for asset management and development Christine Carandang said that under the agreement, the foreclosed beach property would be redeveloped into an exclusive resort community and be renamed Canyon Cove.

She said Tagaytay Grasslands, which developed the highly successful upscale Canyonwoods Residential Resort in Tagaytay, would shoulder the entire development cost while UCPB would contribute the property as equity.

The total project cost was estimated at P3.31 billion, of which P1.67 billion represented the appraised value of the property and P1.64 billion for the five-year redevelopment cost, she said.

The project, which seeks to benefit from the recent growth in Philippine tourism, was the biggest property development deal forged by UCPB in recent years.

The White Cove property has a partially finished 250-room hotel and 35 building clusters housing 212 condominium units along the beach area, and 10 hectares of raw lands in the surrounding hills.

THE WHITE Cove in Nasugbu

Under the deal, Tagaytay Grasslands will convert the hotel into a "condotel," develop the raw lands into a private residential subdivision, set up a members-only beach club with upscale facilities, renovate the existing condominium units owned by UCPB, and build 400 new condominium units, Carandang said.

Development work on the hotel, raw lands and beach club facilities is targeted in the fourth quarter of this year while the renovation of the existing condominium units and construction of new condominium units will start in late 2007 and early 2008, respectively.

UCPB acquired the Nasugbu property in 2000 as settlement for a soured loan and has been operating it as the White Cove beach resort for the past several years.

The bank entered into similar land development agreements last year with Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc., Brittany Corp., Filinvest Land and Century Properties Inc. covering P3.9 billion of the bank's real and other properties owned or acquired (ropoa).

SEC OKs City & Land's ₱400-M debt paper

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMmission (SEC) has approved the registration of property firm City & Land Developers Inc. to raise P400 million from the issuance of short-term commercial debt paper.

In an application filed with the SEC, City & Land said it would use the proceeds from the offering to partly finance two residential condominium projects to be built in the next two years.

City & Land is undertaking the development of "Grand Emerald Tower," a 39-storey commercial, office and residential condominium project in Ortigas at an estimated cost of P1.1 billion. The project may be started during the fourth quarter of this year and is targeted to be completed by the first half of 2011.

City & Land is also developing Pacific Regency, a 38-storey commercial office and residential condominium project at Pablo Ocampo Sr., (formerly Vito Cruz St.) in Manila. This is expected to be completed by April 2008.

City & Land's proposed STCPs may have a term of one year. The STCPs were assigned a rating of PRS2 by credit rating firm Philippine Rating Services Corp. PhilRatings said a rating of PRS2 is defined as having a strong capability for payment of a commercial paper issue on both its interest and principal. Philratings noted the moderately aggressive debt level of the company although it has seen improvements in capital and its debt mix.

Trade deficit falls on improved economy

From page B0

growth in the Philippines."

He said demand for electronics remained solid, despite uncertainties arising from the volatility of crude oil prices.

Despite record-high oil prices, the government is confident economic growth this year will be quite strong.

The government is set to release gross domestic growth (GDP) figures for the three months to June next week.

In the three months to March the economy grew 5.5 percent, which is the same target for the entire year.

"The past six months have been a period of steady economic improvement for the Philippines," Rene Pizarro, head of the government's Investor Relations Office said recently.

"The strong economic showing for the first half of the year clearly demonstrates the positive impact of the government's economic reform program and rising investor confidence in the Philippines," he added.

Total trade for the first six months of the year reached $47.31 billion, up from $42.14 billion last year while imports grew 8.4 percent to $24.57 billion, the NSO said.

The bulk of imports were raw materials for export products, mostly electronics. Electronics, which accounted for 44.8 percent of imports in June, rose 4.6 percent year-on-year to $2.03 billion.

Imports of mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials accounted for 17.5 percent, with purchases up 21.9 percent at $791.99 million.

Transport equipment accounted for 4.4 percent, with payments of $199.42 million, while payments for industrial machinery rose 19.6 percent to $173.37 million.

The United States remained the biggest source of imported goods in June, accounting for 15.6 percent of the import bill worth $707.73 million.

Imports from Japan were worth $541.97 million, or 12 percent of the total. *With a report from AFP*

Stocks fall to 1-month low

From page B1

"The trend during the past few days has basically been directionless with a downward bias," said Westlink Global Equities chair Rommel Macapagal. "Investors may have opted to take their cash and see what happens over the weekend."

Macapagal said financial markets may also be waiting for US Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke's speech later Friday for clues on the direction of future monetary policy action.

PLDT was the most actively traded stock, shedding 2.8 percent to P1,890, in step with the 1.6-percent loss by the company's American Depositary Receipts in New York Thursday.

Global Equities gave up 1.7 percent to 57 centavos. It hit a record high of 63 centavos earlier in the session on continued speculation over the holding concern's negotiations with potential new investors.

Petron fell 3.9 percent to P3.75 on concern over the potential costs the country's biggest oil refiner by assets will incur from an oil spill in the Visayas. The oil came from a Petron plant in the north and was being transported to a power plant in the south. Petron has blamed the ship's owner for the mishap.

All sectoral indicators retreated. Decliners led gainers 60 to 16, while 61 stocks were unchanged. *AP*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 25, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	3,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	35.5	35.5	34.5	34.5	181,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53	53	51.5	52	627,600
China Banking Corp.	695	695	695	695	510
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	1,130,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	78.5	78.5	76	76	100,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	38.5	39	37.5	38	791,300
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	55	55	55	55	100
Philippine National Bank	33	33	32.5	32.5	21,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	44.5	45	42	42	20,100
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.6	0.6	400,000
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	206,000
First Metro Invest. Corp	28	30.5	28	30.5	7,500
Manulife Financial Corp.	1620	1620	1620	1620	60
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	60,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2040	2040	2040	2040	50
Ivantage Corp.	1 34	1 42	1.32	1.42	15,029,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	42	42.5	42	42.5	30,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	42.5	42.5	42	42	562,100
Manila Electric Co. A	15.75	16	15.75	16	2,800
Manila Electric Co. B	25	25	25	25	298,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	8.9	9	8.9	9	1,437,000
Petron Corp.	3.8	3.85	3.75	3.75	6,511,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0 93	0.93	0.93	0.93	80,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
CADP Group Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	3,000
Cen Azucar de Tarlac	2.28	3.7	2.28	3.7	22,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	22.75	23	22.75	23	23,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	32.5	32.5	31.5	31.5	607,100
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	654,000
San Miguel Corp. A	63	64	63	64	54,700
San Miguel Corp. B	71.5	72	70.5	72	542,000
Universal Robina Corp.	18.5	18.5	18	18	1,366,600
Vitarich Corp.	0 21	0 215	0 21	0 21	500,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.28	0.29	0 28	0.28	570,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.6	1.62	1.58	1.6	5,540,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	20,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.9	5	4.9	4.95	942,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.38	1 4	1.38	1.4	235,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	4	4	3.5	3.5	10,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0 6	0 63	0.57	0.57	250,770,000
Picop Resources Inc	0.0875	0 12	0.0875	0.105	66,900,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0 0075	0.0075	0.0075	56,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	11,000,000
Ayala Corp.	420	425	420	422.5	189,890
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	500,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.85	4.9	4.85	4.85	36,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.028	0.029	0.028	0.028	26,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.82	41,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.28	0.29	3,570,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	7,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1	1	1	1	10,000
Bengres Holdings Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	1,134,000
DMCI Holdings Inc	4.1	4.15	4.05	4.05	50,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	10,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	50,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.6	643,000
Medco Holdings	0.19	0.19	0.185	0.185	720,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.013	65,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc	0.18	0.18	0 18	0.18	1,360,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	2,350,000
SM Investments Corp.	217	218	216	216	121,380
South China Resources Inc	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	100,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	10,150,000
Wellex Industries Inc	0.12	0 12	0.12	0.12	300,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	6,052,100
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	10,000
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.02	1	1	373,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.33	0.33	9,500,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	266,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	30,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	200,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.46	5,260,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	300,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.049	0.0525	0.049	0.0525	500,000
Filinvest Land Inc	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	14,808,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	700,000
Gotesco Land Inc. B	0.13	0.15	0.13	0.15	110,000
Interport Res.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	20,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	3,000,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	500,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.68	1.7	1.66	1.68	20,618,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0 22	0.22	0.205	0.205	40,720,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0 28	480,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	12	12.25	12	12.25	123,700
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	300,000
SM Development Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	3,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.8	7 8	7.6	7.7	5,430,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0 56	230,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.09	0 0925	0.09	0.0925	2,300,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	16 5	16 5	16 5	16.5	5,300
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.26	1.26	1 24	1.24	1,383,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	990	990	970	970	27,870
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.75	3 75	3.7	3.7	4,039,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1925	1925	1890	1890	170,880
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0 19	0 19	0.19	0.19	1,910,000
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.021	0.018	0.019	314,200,000
Ionics Inc.	2.08	2.08	2.08	2 08	15,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.0525	0.0525	3,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0575	0.0575	0.055	0.055	9,400,000
Music Semiconductors Corp	1 18	1.18	1.14	1.14	150,000
Philweb Corp	0 029	0 03	0 029	0.03	159,900,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals, Inc.	2 95	2 95	2.95	2 95	300,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	14 75	14 75	14.75	14.75	1,255,200
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.94	0 96	0.94	0.96	290,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4 2	4.2	4	4	793,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1 56	1 56	1.52	1.54	1,019,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.48	0 48	0.48	0.48	200,000
EDUCATION					
iPeople Inc	2 9	2 9	2.75	2.75	224,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2 3	2 32	2.24	2.24	314,000
Paxys Inc	10.5	10 5	10.5	10.5	573,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	5	5	4 85	4.85	900,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	4 95	4 95	4 85	4 9	440,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.009	0.009	0.0085	0.0085	128,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8	8.2	8	8 2	1,237,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.1	2 28	2.1	2.2	225,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	5,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.019	329,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.022	0.023	0.021	0.022	282,900,000
Omico Corp.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.01	2,051,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4.1	4.15	4	4	1,273,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.15	4.2	4.1	4.1	1,616,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	25.5	25.5	25	25	158,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.62	0.62	0.6	0.6	640,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.62	0 62	0.62	0.62	400,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.27	0 27	0.27	0.27	1,450,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	15,200,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,200,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.26	1.26	1.2	1.2	1,877,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.28	1.26	1.26	1.26	616,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	13	13	12.75	12.75	26,400
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	103	104	103	104	3,210
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	371,500

DISCLOSURES

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. has disclosed that a total of 65,972 shares were exercised and fully paid for as part of the company's stock option plan for the period Aug. 8 to 23.

***

FIRST Abacus Financial Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 28, 8 a.m. at the Sta. Maria Function room, 5/F Discovery Suites, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of Aug. 31 are entitled to attend and vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by Kate Pedroso, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

August 25, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.784006	1	51.568
Japan	Yen	0.006726	0.008579	0.4424
United Kingdom	Pound	1.479106	1.8866	97.2882
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.10081	0.128583	6.6308
Switzerland	Franc	0.632365	0.806582	41.5938
Canada	Dollar	0.706439	0.901063	46.466
Singapore	Dollar	0.497056	0.633995	32.6939
Australia	Dollar	0.597794	0.762486	39.3199
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.079758	2.652731	136.796
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.209051	0.266645	13.7503
Brunei	Dollar	0.495485	0.631991	32.5905
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000109	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.020823	0.02656	1.3696
UAE	Dirham	0.213457	0.272264	14.0401
Euro	Euro	1	1.2755	65.775
Argentina	Peso	0.254135	0.324149	16.7157
Brazil	Real	0.363336	0.463435	23.8984
Denmark	Kroner	0.134048	0.170978	8.817
India	Rupee	0.016889	0.021542	1.1109
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213161	0.271887	14.0207
Mexico	New Peso	0.071737	0.0915	4.7185
New Zealand	Dollar	0.499018	0.636497	32.8229
Norway	Kroner	0.12354	0.157575	8.1258
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013011	0.016595	0.8558
South Africa	Rand	0.109605	0.139801	7.2093
Korea	Won	0.000818	0.001043	0.0538
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.02387	0.030446	1.57

Oil prices rise as traders watch Iran standoff, storm threats

SINGAPORE—OIL PRICES ROSE yesterday as the market closely watched the Iran nuclear standoff and the potential of tropical storms threatening the US Gulf coast oil refineries.

Light, sweet crude for October delivery rose 54 cents to $72.90 a barrel in midmorning Asian electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Oil prices had fallen earlier in the week on Wednesday's Department of Energy weekly data showing a rise in gasoline stockpiles, as well as higher than expected crude oil and distillate stockpiles.

But on Thursday and Friday, the market had other concerns.

"There are many bullish figures out there but the bears are beginning to emerge," said Victor Shum, an analyst at Purvin & Gertz in Singapore.

Traders are concerned about the possibility of Iran, the world's fourth-biggest oil producer, blocking oil exports if it is sanctioned by the United Nations over its nuclear program.

The UN gave an Aug. 31 deadline for Iran to halt its nuclear program but Tehran said Tuesday that it preferred more negotiations.

The United States said that statement fell far short of UN Security Council demands it halt uranium enrichment.

In other Nymex trading, natural gas increased 28.1 cents to $7.360 per 1,000 cubic feet.

On the storm front, Tropical Storm Debby was expected to slowly strengthen in the Atlantic Ocean but stay away from land, the National Hurricane Center said Thursday.

But traders are monitoring a tropical wave in the Atlantic, which forecasters are saying could escalate into a bigger storm.

The fear is that a storm could damage Gulf coast oil facilities, as in 2005, when hurricanes Katrina and Rita battered the region. Many refineries are still recovering from the damage. *AP*

US, Southeast Asian nations ink trade pact

Asean hails investment deal

KUALA LUMPUR—THE UNITED States and 10 Southeast Asian nations signed a trade and investment agreement on Friday that opens the door to possible free-trade talks.

US Trade Representative Susan Schwab signed the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement in Malaysia with the 10 member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

"The can-do spirit of the members of Asean reflects the can-do spirit we are so proud of in the United States," Schwab told reporters after signing the pact.

"The TIFA with Asean represents an important step forward in the trade relationship with the region."

The United States is the biggest buyer of Asean goods and the region's largest foreign direct investor, pumping $8.7 billion into the region last year, Asean data shows.

In 2004, U.S. demand accounted for 14 percent of Asean exports.

The framework agreement seeks to lower non-tariff barriers to trade and investment and is a necessary first step if both sides want to begin free-trade negotiations. Washington has played down this prospect, though it has a free-trade deal already with Singapore and is in free-trade talks with Malaysia and Thailand.

Work to build on the pact will involve development of an Asean single-window facility to smooth the flow of goods to the United States and cooperation to foster trade in agricultural goods and new drugs, Malaysian Trade Minister Rafidah Aziz said.

"This is not a legally binding document but a framework for technical cooperation," Rafidah added.

Asean comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. *Reuters*

Asia currencies steady at multi-week lows

SINGAPORE—ASIAN CURRENcies hovered at multi-week lows yesterday, taking their cue from a weaker yen after consumer price data strengthened the view that Japanese rates will rise only gradually.

Traders were braced for a speech by Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke later in the day, which could provide fresh clues on US inflation and interest rates.

The Bank of Japan lifted its target for the key overnight call rate to 0.25 percent in July, the first rise in six years.

"While it is undeniable that softer CPI inevitably implies less chance of a follow-on BOJ rate hike, the market response has probably been a little excessive," UBS said in a note.

The yen traded at about 116.55 to the dollar, easing after Japan's core consumer price index rose 0.2 percent in July from a year earlier, against expectations of a 0.5 percent rise.

The Singapore dollar eased to 1.5808 since Aug. 15, while the South Korean won dipped to a one-week low at the weaker side of 959 per dollar.

The Taiwan dollar inched down to about 32.88 per US dollar, a 2-1/2-week low, from Thursday's close in local trade at about 32.85.

The Philippine peso bucked the regional trend. It was up a more than a third of a percent at 51.42 to the US dollar.

One trader said the market was simply covering short peso positions after the currency weakened to a three-week low at 51.60 per US dollar on Thursday.

The Thai baht was slightly weaker at 37.69 per dollar, weighed down by political concerns after news on Thursday that an attempt to assassinate Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra had been foiled.

To add to the political problems in Thailand, the opposition is asking for a re-run of the general election set for Oct. 15 to be delayed because the process of selecting members of a new Election Commission is not expected to be completed until early next month. *Reuters*

A WORKER heads off to lunch passing by an advertisement of an under-construction apartment block in Jakarta. Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said the economy of the country was seen expanding 6.3 percent next year, after clocking in an estimated growth of 5.9 percent in 2006. AFP

Maybank Group pre-tax profit surpasses RM4 billion (USD1.07 billion) mark, a record for Malaysian financial institutions

The Maybank Group recently announced a **pre-tax profit** of **RM4.03 billion (USD1.07 billion)** for the **financial year ended 30 June 2006** , attributing the record performance to its strategy of sustainable growth and diversification of income streams.

This pre-tax profit was 15.3% higher compared to the RM3.49 billion recorded in the previous corresponding period. **Profit after tax** for the year was RM2.8 billion, a 12% increase over the RM2.5 billion recorded previously. Net income for the period increased by 14% to RM8.13 billion from RM7.13 billion.

Announcing the Group's financial results, Maybank President and CEO, Datuk Amirsham A Aziz said the performance was due to the **three-pronged strategy** of the Group to ensure sustainable earnings growth for the future, namely to **diversify the income streams to include other non-banking sectors, improve revenue from overseas operations** as well as to **grow non-interest income.**

"Our focus is on earnings and enhancing value creation for all our stakeholders, especially in market segments where the Group has clear leadership in terms of expertise and market share," said Datuk Amirsham.

He said the banking & finance sector, which was the mainstay of the Group's business, continued to show strong performance with revenue growing by 13.5% to RM11.8 billion from RM10.4 billion.

"However, in the area of non-banking business, we are seeing higher growth potential especially in the insurance sector, where the market penetration rate was only 39% in 2005," said Datuk Amirsham. "Given this vast untapped market, we believe the Maybank Group is well-positioned to increase revenue growth from this sector, particularly following the successful completion of the acquisition of MNI."

The **performance of overseas operations** also improved significantly, making Maybank well positioned to benefit from the more dynamic growth beyond Malaysia and the region.

Revenue from overseas operations grew by RM935.7 million, comprising 20.5% of total Group revenue, up from 14.8% a year ago. Significant growth was especially seen in the Singapore operations which registered a 57% rise in revenue from a year earlier on the back of higher loans growth in hire purchase and home mortgages.

Non-interest income for the Group rose by RM560 million or 25.9% compared to a year earlier. The ratio of non-interest income to gross income at June 2006 stood at 34.3%, compared to 31.1% in the previous corresponding period.

Datuk Amirsham added that the consumer and business banking segments were the main driversof revenue. Revenue from the consumer segment totaled 40.1% of total Group revenue while that of the business banking segment made up 28.7%.

Key Performance Indicators

Datuk Amirsham stated that the results met all three Key Performance Indicators announced by Maybank earlier - which were a 10% growth in profit and revenue respectively as well as a return on equity (ROE) of 18%. The Group achieved an ROE of 18.1% for the year under review.

Earnings per share for the year rose to 74.4 sen per share from 68.41 sen per share previously while total assets grew 16.8% to RM234.2 billion compared to RM191.9 million last year.

Datuk Amirsham noted that the asset quality of the Group continued to improve, with the net NPL ratio improving further to 3.84% in June 2006, compared to 4.93% in June 2005.

Consequently, the loan loss coverage as at June 2006 improved to 69.8% from 66.1% in June 2005.

The risk weighted capital ratio of the Group stood at 13.9% as at 30 June 2006. At the bank level, the ratio was 12.5%, well above the minimum regulatory requirement of 8%.

Maybank is the first financial institution in Malaysia to exceed the RM4 billion (USD1.07 billion) level in pre-tax profit.

Maybank

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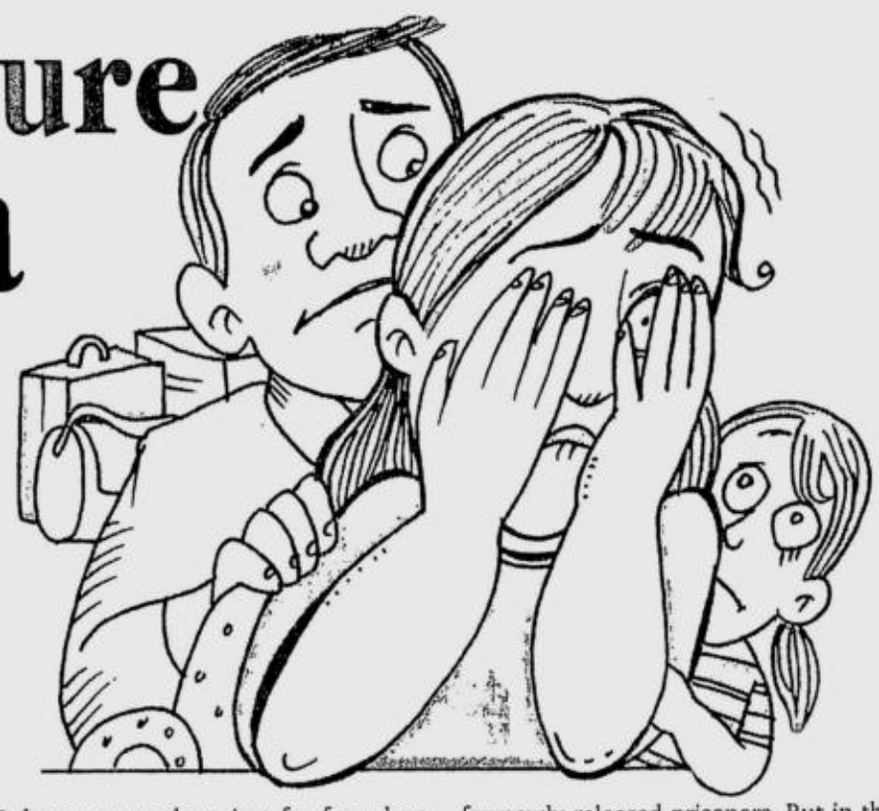
E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Text us your feedback: inquirer hea name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Ceasefire doesn't assure to stop OFW trauma



By Tessa R. Salazar

WITH A TENSE CEASEfire ongoing between the Lebanese Hezbollah and Israel, overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) waiting for repatriation in Lebanon may feel trapped in the eye of a storm. This uncertain lull can continue to contribute to the psychological damage wrought on OFWs. The longer they wait tensely, the deeper the psychological wound has been cut.

Ateneo de Manila clinical psychologist Isabel Melgar, Ph.D., said the longer the OFWs stay in Lebanon waiting for repatriation, the greater the psychological damage that they will sustain (even if they are already in churches and shelters).

"The band of potential external cues widens as you lengthen your exposure to the traumatizing event," Melgar said.

Constant, fresh reminder

Even if the rockets have stopped raining down on Lebanon, the damage the past weeks of assault have wrought on Lebanese infrastructure has left a constant and fresh reminder of what can resume at any moment.

For Melgar, the wake of the Hezbollah-Israeli war is enough to traumatize citizens, including OFWs. "Stimulus generalization is where additional stimuli can elicit distressing consequences for the person through association or conditioning."

Social psychologist Milagros Du Lagrosa, Ph.D., associate professor at the Asian Institute of Management, said the people managing the shelters are still dealing with the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the OFWs.

"They are worried both for themselves and their families here in the Philippines," she said.

PTSD for OFWs

Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), a condition most commonly suffered by combatants in a war, can also manifest itself in affected civilians. What worries social scientists is that OFWs can manifest PTSD several weeks or months after the traumatic experience—when they already are at their home country interacting with their families.

The trigger that could help the onset of PTSD, Melgar revealed, could be internal or external. "Hence, there is a sense of unpredictability and uncontrollability to the development of this disorder," she said.

Melgar cited three categories of symptoms under this disorder:

- Reexperiencing the traumatic event through flashbacks and nightmares;
- Avoidance (akin to phobic reaction) and emotional numbing;
- Increased emotional arousal like outbursts of anger.

"Therefore, monitoring and continuous assessment is important. Debriefing may help but it may not be enough to be considered as the only therapeutic intervention."

3 factors

Lagrosa said the three factors in the Lebanese situation she considers most damaging psychologically for OFWs are: shattered dreams, uncertainty about the future and inefficiency of the government to respond to both their immediate and long-term needs.

Lagrosa said she consulted one of her AIM colleagues who have done work in migrations management.

Said Lagrosa: "He said that some of those Filipinos who returned from Lebanon were there just for four days. News also showed that a number of them returned without receiving salaries. This can be aggravated by the possibility that some may have borrowed money just to get out of the country."

Halfway homes

When asked if it was advisable for affected OFWs to be integrated with their families here right away, she suggested that the government and NGOs should first provide "halfway homes"—temporary billeting to ease the transition of affected OFWs from one way of living to another.

"I often hear about this arrangement for newly released prisoners. But in the absence of these, at least, returning Filipinos together with key people in the family ('therapeutic allies') must be given debriefing upon reentry with their families," Lagrosa said.

She also said the best help that family members can give is understanding, patience and listening ears. She added that for many survivors storytelling is therapeutic.

According to Melgar, she has misgivings about conducting group debriefings because of the different intensities of experiences of those affected. However, she added that "it would do for now—for lack of resources."

Pinoy 'big burden'

MEDICAL FILES

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

RECENTLY HELD WAS AT THE TAAL VISTA Lodge was the 13th annual convention of the Philippine Coalition Against Tuberculosis or Philcat. The theme of the convention was quite intriguing: "Continuing Unified Action Against Pinoy Big Burden."

I asked Dr. Renato Dantes, one of the movers of the organization, what the convention theme is all about, and he explained that the Pinoy big burden referred to is tuberculosis along with the other prevalent lung problems in the Philippines, namely, pneumonia, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or COPD and asthma.

Intensified campaign

Health Secretary Francisco Duque formally opened the sessions as keynote speaker and interacted with participants during the Secretary's Hour. I'm sure Secretary Duque discussed the intensified campaign of the DOH against TB, which remains a priority program of the DOH. The Philippines is one of the countries in the Western Pacific which are considered high TB burden countries. But if it's any consolation, the Philippines is also one of the 26 countries reported by the World Health Organization to have met the prescribed target a year ahead of time.

The targets set by the WHO is to detect 70 percent of TB cases and successfully treat 85 percent by the end of 2005. Five other high-burden countries in the region—Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia and Myanmar—were reported to have reached the targets within the 2005 timeframe, though final confirmation will come at the end of this year.

It's also heartening to note that the Philippines was cited in a published report by Drs. Khan Ibrahim, Samreen Khan and Ulrich Laaser of the Section of International Public Health of the University of Bielefeld in Germany, as one of the countries with documented success in TB case detection and management.

Global emergency

Tuberculosis was declared by the WHO as a global emergency in 1993, enjoining national, international and local health authorities to make TB eradication a matter of utmost priority. In this worldwide campaign for TB control, WHO is mutually struggling with the high-burden countries and giving financial and technical assistance, particularly on the Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS) strategy. This has been shown to be highly cost effective, ensures effective diagnosis and is considered a corner stone for treating infectious cases in any setting. However many developing countries have been unable to implement this strategy as rapidly as needed.

In the Western Pacific region, the situation is alarming in India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Thailand, Myanmar, Pakistan and Afghanistan where 50 percent of global bulk of TB cases occur. We should commend the DOH and the Philcat for a successful collaboration in getting our country out of the TB "critical list," and in fact, making it as one of the models for a successful implementation of the DOTS.

Major obstacles

A few years ago, experts on TB control met in Amsterdam to discuss the successes and failures in the WHO-initiated TB control among the high-burden countries. The meeting revealed some valuable facts about the major obstacles in expanding TB control care under DOTS.

The meeting minutes reported: "DOTS coverage is profoundly slow and further expansion is overshadowed by lack of political backup, inadequate financial and technical resources and managerial inefficiencies. Unless immediate action is taken, TB will continue to elude the brightest minds and challenge the human and economic resources of nations around the globe. More than 15 million people will die from tuberculosis in the next decade if countries do not fine-tune their TB control programs and pledge to implement DOTS universally."

It's good that at least in the area of TB control, the Philippines has not fallen into the trap of lack of political will and managerial incompetence. If we can only have the same unity, commitment, collaboration and efficiency of the government and private sectors as the DOH and the various organizations under the Philcat have shown in the battle against TB, most of the battles we fight, be it against poverty or corruption or whatever ails our country, should have the same glowing success we have shown the world for TB control.

Fido Dido's secret

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

LAST WEEK I CHALLENGED READers to make sense of a website recommended by educator and critic Dr. Isagani Cruz: www.digicc.com. Fido, the icon of 7-Up, gives this puzzle. First, write down a 3- or 4-digit number (not all digits should be alike). Jumble all the digits to make another number. Then subtract the smaller number from the larger one. Encircle one of the digits in your answer, except zero. Jumble up all the numbers which are left, and Fido can read your mind by guessing the digit you circled. What is Fido's secret?

Thank you, readers, for your overwhelming response. To date I have received more than 50 replies, and most of them are on the right track. However, some solutions are clearer and more detailed than others. The best explanation comes from creative writer and math aficionado Jose Edmundo Reyes [rilkepoet@yahoo.com]. Look at how carefully he marshals his proof:

Making it simple

For the sake of simplicity, let's start with a 4-digit number ABCD. Mathematically, that can be represented by 1000A+100B+10C+D. When we jumble the digits, there are 24 possible 4-digit numbers (multiply 4, 3, 2 and 1), because we can only use those four digits from my original number.

Let's say we wind up with BCDA. Mathematically that's 1000B+100C+10D+A. If we subtract the lesser of the two from the greater, we end up with the absolute value of the following quantity: [1000(A-B)+100(B-C)+10(C-D)+(D-A)]. I claim that this quantity is divisible by 9. Why?

We know that a number is divisible by 9 if the sum of its digits is divisible by 9. We know that at least one of the quantities (A-B), (B-C), (C-D) and (D-A) is negative; in other words, not all can be positive. If A is greater than B, and B is greater than C, and C is greater than D, then D must be less than A, for instance. Let's say for the moment that this is the case. Then because we "borrow" from the tens digit, the quantity above is equal to the absolute value of [1000(A-B)+100(B-C)+10(C-D-1)+(10+D-A)].

Assuming that all the quantities in parentheses are positive, then they are all the digits of the resulting number. Adding the digits we get (A-B)+(B-C)+(C-D-1)+(10+D-A). Because of associative and commutative properties, this simplifies to 9, which is of course divisible by 9.

Let's say (C-D-1) is negative. Then because we borrow from the hundreds digit, the quantity is equal to [1000(A-B)+100(B-C-1)+10(10+C-D-1)+(10+D-A)]. Again, assuming that all the quantities in parentheses are positive, then they are all the digits of the resulting number. Adding the digits we get (A-B)+(B-C-1)+(10+C-D-1)+(10+D-A). This simplifies to 18, which is divisible by 9.

If (B-C-1) is still negative, we simply repeat the process by borrowing from the thousands digit. This will result in a sum of 27, which is divisible by 9. (We only "borrow" as many times as necessary. No matter how many times we borrow, we'll wind up with a sum of digits equal to nine.)

No matter what the order of original digits A,B,C,D is, they will all cancel out using the above process, because each digit will always be canceled by its inverse. We'll wind up with a sum of resulting digits 0,9,18, or 27, meaning that the difference is divisible by 9.

The missing digit

That the difference is divisible by 9 is important because all Fido has to do is work backward from the digits that we provide him to find the missing digit, which is the one we encircled. If, for instance, we picked 1234 and jumbled it into 4321, the difference is 3087. Let's say we circled 8 (notice that Fido is sneaky by not allowing us to circle a 0) and give him 307. The only possible digit between 1 and 9 that will result in a sum of digits equal to a multiple of 9 is 8.

Metrobank outstanding math educator Allan Canonigo of Ormoc City [allan_mc2000@yahoo.com] also gives a similar, albeit shorter, proof. Ivan Quentin [try1cmor@yahoo.com] explains using modulus (or remainders after dividing by 9). These three readers will each get an autographed copy of my latest book In Love with Science: Outstanding Filipino Scientists Tell Their Stories (Anvil, 2006).

The following readers also gave an essentially correct, but not complete, solution: Janice Cham [chamjanice@yahoo.com], Rock Finn Gonzaga [rock_finn@yahoo.com], Katherine Marie Tanyu [km_tanyu@yahoo.com], Eribert Padilla [esp888@yahoo.com], Connie Rose Gabor [dammit_0072000@yahoo.com], Fatima Sia [fatimsia@yahoo.com], Emet Tenerife [emet.tenerife@gmail.com], William Anakin [anakinwilliam@yahoo.com.ph], Jun Cabrera [brojun29@yahoo.com], Bob [fzbear@gmail.com] and Rey [rze@smprime.com]. Good thinking!

* * *

E-mail the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.

An artist's courageous fight to win back her true self

By Charles E. Buban

LOOKING AT ROWENA "WEEWEE" Seloterio's works recently exhibited at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, one cannot help but admire the 36-year-old artist's patience and perseverance in coming up with several black-and-white abstractions that were described as labyrinthine, laborious and in a way allegorical.

Her extensive use of elemental symbols like fishes, turtles, starfishes, urchins and intricate cell-like patterns may have represented her spiritual journey and perhaps personal strifes.

For Seloterio, a product of the University of the Philippines Cebu's College of Fine Arts, these "stylized doodles" as what she loves to call her works in pen and ink capture the flow of her struggle to reconcile with her inner self.

The acknowledged artist from Tagbilaran City in Bohol admitted being a survivor of schizophrenia.

First bout

It was 13 years ago at age 23, when Seloterio had her first bout with this serious thought disorder characterized by mixed-up thoughts, delusions (false or irrational beliefs), hallucinations (seeing or hearing things that do not exist) and bizarre behavior.

"I suffered from extreme depression, during each episode my whole body would grow tense, weep for no apparent reason, and sometimes fly into rages," she remembered.

Seloterio admitted that she would often cut short her taking of medication whenever her condition improves or whenever she would gain weight or her tremors and twitches would intensify. As a result, she would fell into a repetitive cycle of remission and relapse for the next 10 years.

But even in her moments of relapse, she would still continue to draw—even on the walls of her house and on the walls on their family owned store in Tagbilaran City.

Worst relapse

After Seloterio's worst relapse in 1993, her psychiatrist, Dr. Fe Costales, decided to again change her medication, this time prescribing olanzapine (Xyprexa), which was newly introduced to the market at the time.

Olanzapine belongs to a relatively new family of medications collectively known as atypicals.

The atypicals are seen as a major advance over the older antipsychotic medications as they have shown success in regulating the neurotransmitters that are believed to be at the core of schizophrenic behavior as well as prevent certain distressing side effects (involuntary movements of muscles, and symptoms resembling Parkinson's disease) commonly observed in the older medications.

"Treatment for schizophrenia has long been a challenge for both patients and doctors because of the often severe adverse effects of the drugs developed to control it. Thus, it is vital for the doctor to look at the situation of his or her patient and figure out which drug works best," said Dr. Jose Tablante, medical director of Eli Lilly (Philippines) Inc. which manufactures the drug, olanzapine.

Tablante added that barriers toward the fulfillment of Seloterio's goals were finally overcome by the strong alliance that she and her doctor have built.

Lifeline

For Seloterio, the drug has been a lifeline noting that it has finally stabilized her moods, allowing he to live a more normal life.

Seloterio admitted that the medication has helped her in a lot of ways: "I'm more happy right now and is able to cope with my condition."

"This is a testament of the importance of patient-psychologist teamwork and continuously striving for improvement in one's health to perform exceptionally in one's craft," said Tablante.

He added that the public is much better informed about schizophrenia than they used to be, believing that it can be treated effectively with the right combination of medication, education, family and community support.

Looking ahead Seloterio wants to duplicate if not surpass her recent one-woman exhibit at the CCP, even planning on working on much bigger canvases with more gestural and painterly strokes as well as more vibrant colors.

Master bakers relearn art of raising dough

Flour mills band together to help 'panaderos'

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

BAKERS ARE AMONG THE FEW WHO can live on bread alone.

Unfortunately, four of five bakers in the Philippines still rely on antiquated and unscientific methods of baking the bread that their families depend on.

These methods have been handed down through generations and have not adapted to the times. As a result, bakers have to contend with inconsistent product quality and production inefficiencies that lead to lower income.

CORPORATE CITIZEN

Data from the National Statistics Office showed that there are about 30,000 groups and individuals making bread, and nine of ten of them are neighborhood bakeshops producing mainly pan de sal.

But there are ways to improve their lot.

The neighborhood bakers just need to apply a few simple, easy-to-learn techniques to wean them away from the traditional methods of making bread, and move them closer to becoming more entrepreneurial in their approach.

This is the message being trumpeted by the Philippine Association of Flour Millers, Chamber of Philippine Flour Millers and the US Wheat Associates, which have banded together to launch the Mabuhay Tinapay! campaign.

Mabuhay Tinapay!

The campaign primarily seeks to drum up Filipinos' interest in bread—be it pan de sal, monay, pan de coco or ensaimada—as a major source of nutrition, especially protein essential for growth.

And what better way to raise this awareness than to help bakers produce a better line of bread products to encourage their market to buy more.

Pafmil executive director Ric M. Pinca said one of the major flaws in the traditional baking method was that it does not use accurate measurements.

"The maestro panaderos (master bakers) of old would usually just use their own measurements," Pinca said. "For example, a sack of flour is mixed with a pail of water and a handful of sugar, salt and yeast."

The bakers do not realize that having too much or too little of one ingredient will affect the quality of the entire batch.

If the bread smells sour, too much yeast was used. If it did not rise, the baker either used too much water, sugar or shortening.

Tricks of the trade

Then there's the matter of the panaderias selling pan de sal in different sizes.

One reason is that the panaderos do not weigh the pan de sal dough to make sure that it meets the minimum weight of 25 grams required by the Department of Trade and Industry.

"What we are trying to tell the bakers is that there is a science to baking bread," Pinca said.

The Mabuhay Tinapay! campaign supporters are thus investing in baking seminars across the country to teach neighborhood bakers the latest tricks of the trade to improve their livelihood.

Aside from the rudiments of baking, the Mabuhay Tinapay! campaigners also teach the bakers/owners about what they can do to improve their business.

Teachers tell them that they can do much more than just bake pan de sal.

The flour millers provide the bakers with recipes and formulations to prepare other kinds of bread that will sell well throughout the day, unlike pan de sal, which sells well only in the mornings and early afternoons.

They are also taught to recycle old bread to make other products they can sell, such as bread crumbs and feed for animals.

Providing the bakers with formulations to make new products helps achieve another objective of the Mabuhay Tinapay! campaign, which is to promote the use of locally milled, high quality flour made from US wheat.

Mike Spier of the US Wheat Associates said in a statement that locally milled flour follows stringent standards required by the Department of Health and the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

The Sangkap Pinoy seal of the DOH means that the flour has been fortified with Vitamin A and iron, which makes for healthier and stronger bodies.

Hygienic

"Through this campaign, we also aim to foster better understanding among bakers and baking companies of the importance of using the finest ingredients," Spier said.

Pinca said the group likewise sends experts to teach the bakers about basic accounting and financial management.

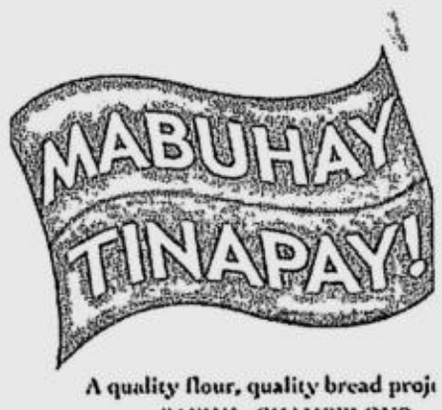
"We even advise them to plow back their earnings into growing their business and to improve the way their bakeries look," Pinca said, "because bakeries deal with food, the place has to look good and should be hygienic."

Companies supporting the campaign include Wellington Flour Mills, Liberty Flour Mills, Universal Robina Corp., General Milling Corp., Philippine Flour Mills, Pilmico Foods Corp., San Miguel Mills, Philippine Foremost Milling Corp., Morning Star Milling Corp. and Delta Flour Mills.

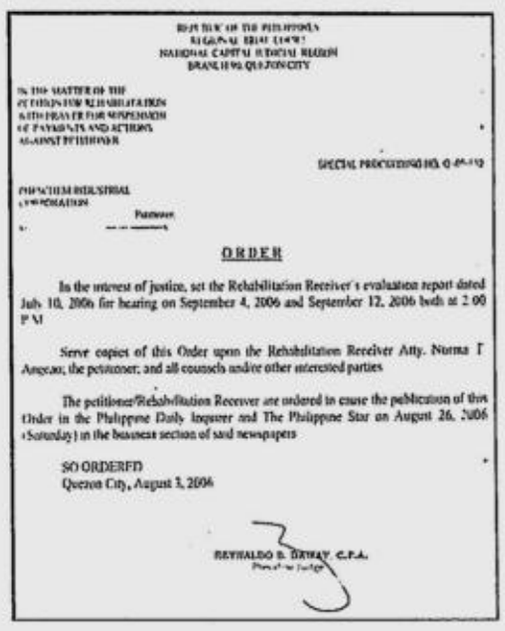
Pinca said these firms slug it out in the market, but have now come together for the first time to help bakers upgrade their skills and products.

In the end, their success will be their success, too.

NEIGHBORHOOD bakers are being taught to make other kinds of bread, and not just the trusty pan de sal.



A quality flour, quality bread proj
PAFMIL, CHAMPFLOUR
and U.S. Wheat Associates



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 96, QUEZON CITY

IN THE MATTER OF THE
PETITION FOR REHABILITATION
WITH PRAYER FOR SUSPENSION
OF PAYMENTS AND ACTIONS
AGAINST PETITIONER

SPECIAL PROCEEDING NO. Q-06-59[illegible]

PAFMIL INDUSTRIAL
CORPORATION
Petitioner

ORDER

In the interest of justice, set the Rehabilitation Receiver's evaluation report dated July 10, 2006 for hearing on September 4, 2006 and September 12, 2006 both at 2:00 P.M.

Serve copies of this Order upon the Rehabilitation Receiver Atty. Norma T. Angeles, the petitioner, and all counsels and/or other interested parties.

The petitioner/Rehabilitation Receiver are ordered to cause the publication of this Order in the Philippine Daily Inquirer and The Philippine Star on August 26, 2006 (Saturday) in the business section of said newspapers.

SO ORDERED
Quezon City, August 3, 2006

REYNALDO B. DAWAY, C.P.A.
Presiding Judge

Desalinated drinking water arrives in RP

By Ronnel W. Domingo

WOULD YOU SHELL OUT P100 for half a liter of bottled water?

Probably not if the water was drawn from the usual underground reservoirs.

But what if it comes from the sea, about a kilometer below the surface tainted by pollution, man-made chemicals, and bacteria, as the label says?

Officials of Ocean-Blue Element International Trading Inc., which launched its MaHaLo Hawaii Deep Sea desalinated drinking water on Friday, said their product was targeted mainly at the health conscious market, like those who are diabetic or have kidney and liver problems.

Ocean-Blue is the importer-distributor of MaHaLo and is a subsidiary of Koyo USA Corp. based in Kona, Hawaii, where parent firm Koyo-Sha Corp. of Japan teamed up with state agency Natural Energy Laboraty of Hawaii Authority or NELHA to develop the technology for harvesting and processing deep sea water.

According to the firm's press materials, the water is nearly 2,000 years old at the point of extraction (deep in Kona waters) and has traveled under the polar ice caps, "gathering ancient minerals from the glaciers where it has been stored since the dawn of time."

"These single-ion trace minerals are essential to proper food assimilation and good health," the firm said.

MaHaLo, which means "Thank you" in Hawaiian, is also available in 1.5-liter bottles priced at P250 each.

Ocean-Blue president Mitsunobu Iwai said the company was in talks with hospitals, hotels, big supermarkets and department stores regarding distribution agreements.

Iwai said the Philippines was the third market after Japan and the United States where MaHaLo has been made available.

MAHALO BOTTLED WATER

Iwai explained that the technology used to make the product was developed three years ago and that desalinated deep sea water has been in the market for two and a half years.

Deep sea water has been marketed in Japan as a dietary supplement that improves weight, stress levels, skin tone and digestion.

In the US where consumers pay $2 for half a liter and $4.50 for 1.5 liters, desalinated ocean water was made commercially available late in 2005 after about a year of efforts to secure approval from food and drug authorities.

Iwai said Koyo was aiming for global distribution of MaHaLo and that, after the Philippines, the firm was looking at China, Thailand and other markets in the region for further expansion.

He also said the manufacturer was considering smaller bottles for MaHaLo, which could help reach a wider market in a country where the "sachet economy" or "tingi" has a big influence on buyers.

PSALM gets nod . . . From page B1

Last year, Napocor borrowed close to $800 million to finance its maturing obligations as well as its capital expenditures and general funding requirements.

Under the government's original medium-term development plan, PSALM will privatize Napocor's power-generation assets, the transmission system now being managed by Transco, independent power producer contracts and non-power assets.

PSALM is currently working to sell five hydro plants and the 600-megawatt Masinloc coal plant following a failed transaction with YNN.

Preparatory activities are being undertaken for the second round of bidding.

The prior-approval requirement from the Monetary Board is mandatory for all public sector borrowers and local banks in general.

Monthly reporting to the Bangko Sentral on loan transactions and balances is also mandatory for all borrowers, public and private, whether or not the loans were BSP-approved or registered to facilitate the comprehensive monitoring of the country's foreign debt. *Doris C. Dumlao*

IBM

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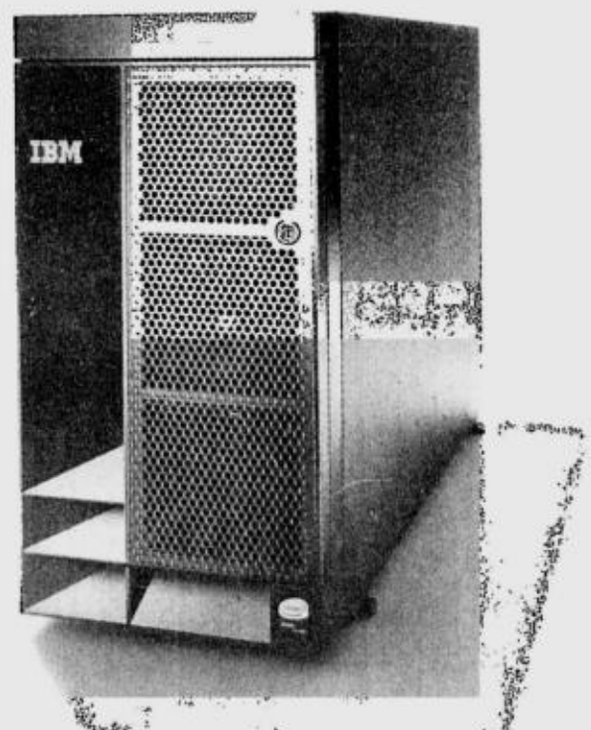

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PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Creating a self-sustained community

By Charles E. Buban

ROBINSONS HOMES INC.'S Bloomfields Tagaytay is a soon-to-rise, self-sustained community set amid luscious landscaping and unsurpassed leisure and lifestyle amenities.

People may wonder what a self-sustained community doing in Tagaytay considering the whole city is already replete with a wide variety of restaurants, wellness and recreational establishments.

Marilu Alferez, senior vice president and general manager of RHI (rhi@robinsonsland.com), explained that in most parts of the world, developments that include places to live, shop, dine and even work are fast gaining popularity.

"A few years ago, people wanted to move out and be away from everything. Now, people want to be closer to where all the activities are. Building such a compact and efficient community will also allow its residents to fully utilize what the community offers and at the same time, let them enjoy their surroundings more," she said.

No need to go far

According to her, being self-sustained, future residents of Bloomfields Tagaytay will no longer need to go very far to shop, play their favorite sports, and do other activities.

Adjacent to the 4.4-hectare residential component of Bloomfields Tagaytay, RHI has set aside a portion where it will build its commercial structures—a lifestyle mall, covered sports center and serviced apartelle.

"A residential development a few steps away from a mall and a sports center would give its residents everything they need within easy reach," Alferez said.

She added that such a mixed-use development is more cohesive and much more convenient for its residents since all components are planned together.

"For example, the planned commercial structures in front of the residential development also act as a buffer from the main road (against traffic, noise). Indeed, it's a huge advantage being an affiliate of Robinsons Land Corp., a real estate giant that has vast experience in building and developing industrial plants, malls and condominiums around the country," Alferez said.

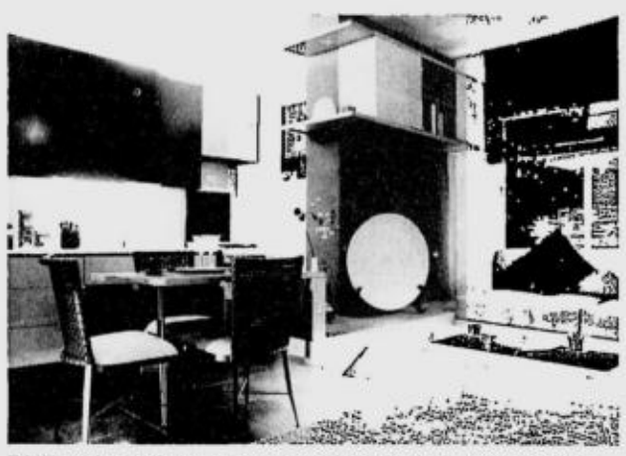
New trend

Bloomfields Tagaytay will also set a new trend as it plans to build a serviced apartelle (located along the commercial block) to complement its residential component.

"The serviced apartelle will cater to those who would like to stay in Tagaytay for much shorter time. Offering round-the-clock and first-class accommodation, the serviced apartelle could be used for other occasions (to hold parties or retreat). At the same time even the guests of Bloomfields Tagaytay could stay here," explained Alferez.

She added that this one-of-a-kind mixed-use development in Tagaytay will set a perfect balance between luxurious "metro" living—without the hustle and bustle of the city—and nature-inspired ambiance that only places like Tagaytay could offer.

ARTIST'S rendition of one of the model units at the self-sustained community that will soon rise in Tagaytay.



THE CAREFUL layout and modern design of the dining and living areas offer a comfortable retreat.

WIDE WINDOWS welcome the fresh breeze and natural lighting into the intricately designed master's bedroom.

Crown Asia tops off Picasso, groundbreaks Michelangelo at Presidio

IN TODAY'S BUSY WORLD, FAST-rising communities are in demand to keep up with fast-paced lifestyles. The country's largest homebuilder, Crown Asia is stepping up to the challenge with the right-on-schedule development of its first vertical project, Presidio at Brittany Bay. With the first tower of Presidio already completed, the recent topping off of its second tower Picasso and the groundbreaking of its third tower Michelangelo give Crown Asia the upper hand in addressing the urbanites' needs as well as their desires.

The decision to reside in a vertical address comes with the desire to find a home suiting their practical living requirements, busy schedules and dynamic lifestyles while offering features to rejuvenate the mind and body, and present well-deserved luxuries. Located at the boundary of thriving Sucat and Taguig, Presidio at Brittany Bay is a self-contained, multilevel environment comprised of 16 towers interplaying in height and size to provide an array of residential options for every individual and family.

Distinct layouts

Each tower is distinguished from the other with distinct layouts yet the whole 6.8-hectare enclave carries an encompassing theme drawn from the neo-Victorian architectural style of San Francisco.

• **Picasso Tower.** A Y-shaped, 7-story garden condo residence with highlights such as walkways left open to cool air and surrounding lush greens. With its 3-winged design, residents can enjoy more natural lighting and ventilation; while a limit of 5 units per wing provides privacy. Parking spaces are available at the ground floor.

Two unit configurations with ingenious layouts to maximize every living space are available: 1-bedroom units with a 39-sq-m floor area; and 2-bedroom units with a 51-sq-m floor area. Picasso's recent topping-off and full-blast construction is right on target with Crown Asia's commitment to deliver the tower by December 2006.

• **Michelangelo Tower.** Another Y-shaped garden condo rise yet with more diverse living options, the Michelangelo is a 10-story vertical address with practical and stylish features. As with the Picasso Tower, the Michelangelo houses a maximum of 7 units per wing so residents can enjoy their privacy while experiencing the relaxing elements of nature. Parking spaces are also available at the ground floor.

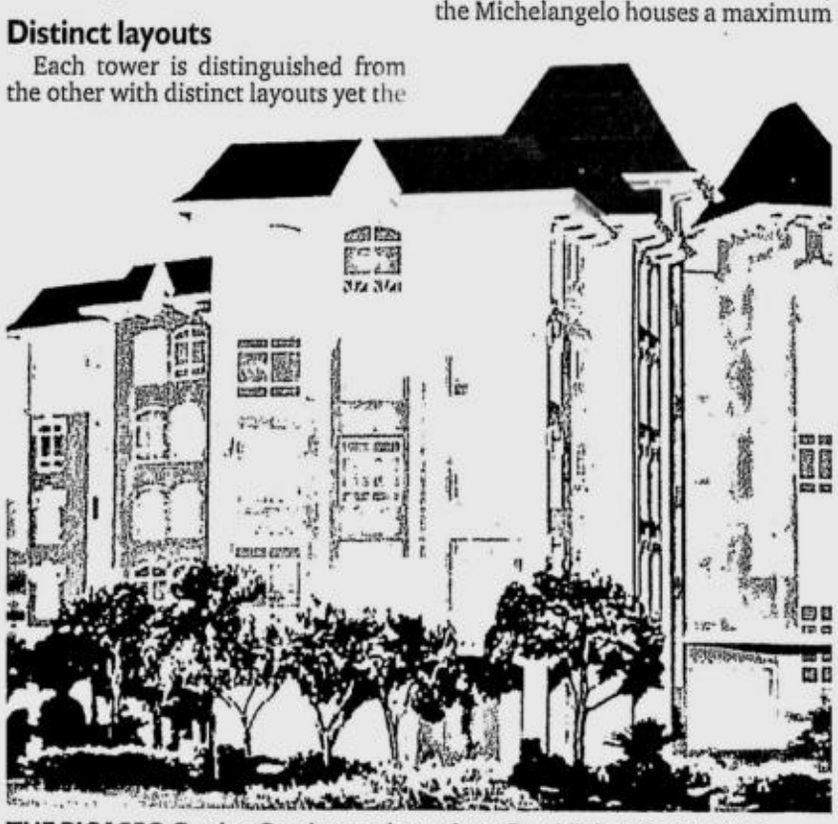
Among the 5 towers primarily launched at Presidio, Michelangelo tenders the largest selection of model units with refreshing and versatile layouts. The typical studio-type units and 1-bedroom units with floor areas ranging from 28 to 40 sq m suit independent individuals. The elegant blueprints of the loft-type or bi-level units with floor areas ranging from 63 to 90 sq m are available in one- to three-bedroom cuts. Majority of the loft-type units overlook the courtyards, while special units at the ground floor have their own gardens perfect for backyard barbecues or for enjoying the cool breeze from the bay. The most luxurious residences are the penthouse units available in one- to two-bedroom homes with floor areas ranging from 53 to 77 sq m. The Michelangelo Tower recently began construction and will be delivered by the first half of year 2007.

Other towers

Da Vinci, Presidio's first tower, has already been completed and delivered to its residents last March 2006. Other towers scheduled to rise includes the Monet Tower and Rembrandt Tower.

Presidio at Brittany Bay rises above other space-deprived condominiums with the presence of landscaped courtyards, parks and playgrounds, and wide sidewalks ideal for jogging while breathing in fresh breeze from Laguna de Bay or gazing at the beautiful view of the mountains. A Town Center will house commercial establishments, bringing choice shops and restaurants in the backyards of Presidio residents. A Village Center brings athletic and leisure facilities such as a swimming pool, clubhouse, day-care center, game room, multipurpose sports center, and gym a few steps away from home.

As more and more families make Crown Asia their home of choice, the company works harder for the fast progress and on schedule completion of their new vertical address at Presidio at Brittany Bay. For inquiries and property previews you may contact 634-9400, 634-9306, 717-3006 to 07 and 718-3400/02 or visit www.crownasia.com.ph on the Web.



THE PICASSO Garden Condo stands out from Presidio's self-contained, multilevel hub by the bay.

A taste of Zen at Mayfield Park Residences

FOR ZEN ARTIST PRICY TEODORO, EVERY stone, every blade of grass and every piece of ornate fixture inside and around the house play a significant part in creating an ambience of peace and serenity. Thus, she pays elaborate attention to everything that surrounds here. .

Nature, she intones, has become an expensive property feature today. "With Metro Manila becoming more and congested with each passing day, it is really difficult for people now to find a home that can give them outright solace from a long day of work demands and worries."

Which was why when she had heard of Mayfield Park Residences, a community being developed at the time by DMCI Homes in Pasig, from friends and fellow Zen followers who thought it was a must-see, Pricy, already an owner of a posh residential condominium in Ortigas, drove to the place at the first opportunity.

Like love at first sight

And she loved what she saw. "It was like love at first sight," she recalls having felt upon seeing the resort-like development. Though still very much a part of the metro, the amenities and features one finds at Mayfield Park Residences, she explains, gives one the feeling that he's somewhere out of town and far, far away.

Pricy claims she's found a gem at Mayfield Park Residences (888-3333). "Man can really commune with nature at Mayfield. You could luxuriate in modern comforts here and still behold the sight of a lot of greenery and vegetation and feel the wind."

Now a Mayfield Park resident, she says she frequents the clubhouse to relax and unwind. "My favorite place is the big couch near the koi pond because the sound of water flowing or splashing never fails to calm my nerves." Here in her favorite space, it's either she has a book to read or lugs her laptop to surf the Net.

Usually on Saturdays, her friends at the Ugly Duckling Society, a group of Zen artists, gather in her Mayfield Park unit to meditate or dine near the pool and share stories.

Too soothing

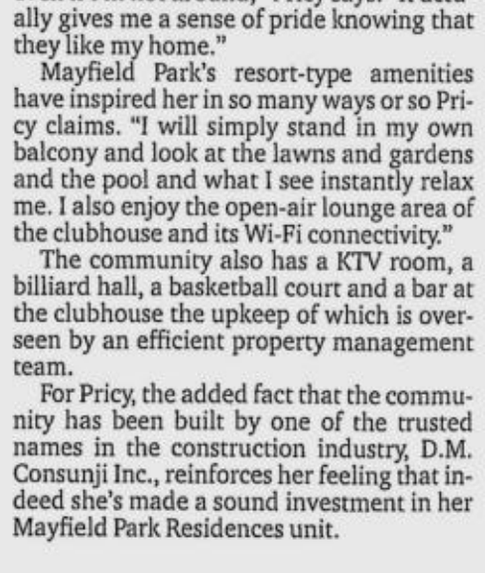
Bong de la Torre, Pricy's best friend and fellow Zen artist, finds the Zen-inspired designs and Oriental gardens at the development too soothing. He confesses that there are days when he and their colleagues will simply borrow the key to her unit and come to Mayfield even when she's not around.

"I really don't mind them coming over even if I'm not around," Pricy says. "It actually gives me a sense of pride knowing that they like my home."

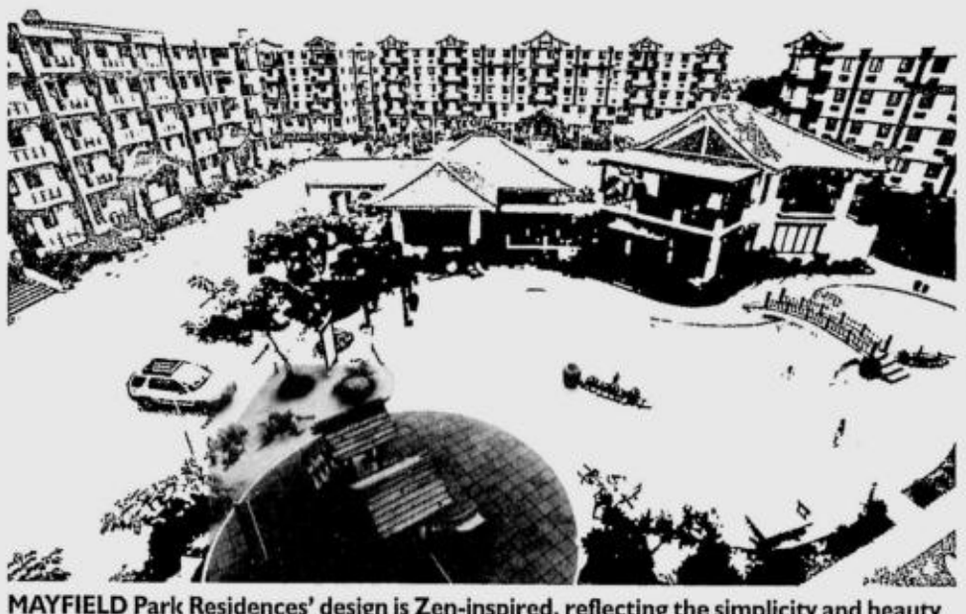
Mayfield Park's resort-type amenities have inspired her in so many ways or so Pricy claims. "I will simply stand in my own balcony and look at the lawns and gardens and the pool and what I see instantly relax me. I also enjoy the open-air lounge area of the clubhouse and its Wi-Fi connectivity."

The community also has a KTV room, a billiard hall, a basketball court and a bar at the clubhouse the upkeep of which is overseen by an efficient property management team.

For Pricy, the added fact that the community has been built by one of the trusted names in the construction industry, D.M. Consunji Inc., reinforces her feeling that indeed she's made a sound investment in her Mayfield Park Residences unit.



KOI pond by the wooden bridge offers a refreshing view.



MAYFIELD Park Residences' design is Zen-inspired, reflecting the simplicity and beauty of Japanese architecture.

Poetry in architecture

"Art should reveal the creative method of nature." — Louis Henry Sullivan

RECENTLY, I WAS INVITED BY THE UST Architecture students to speak during their celebration of Architecture week. The topic was wonderful and very challenging. However, I had previous commitments and can only now write about how there can be poetry in architecture.

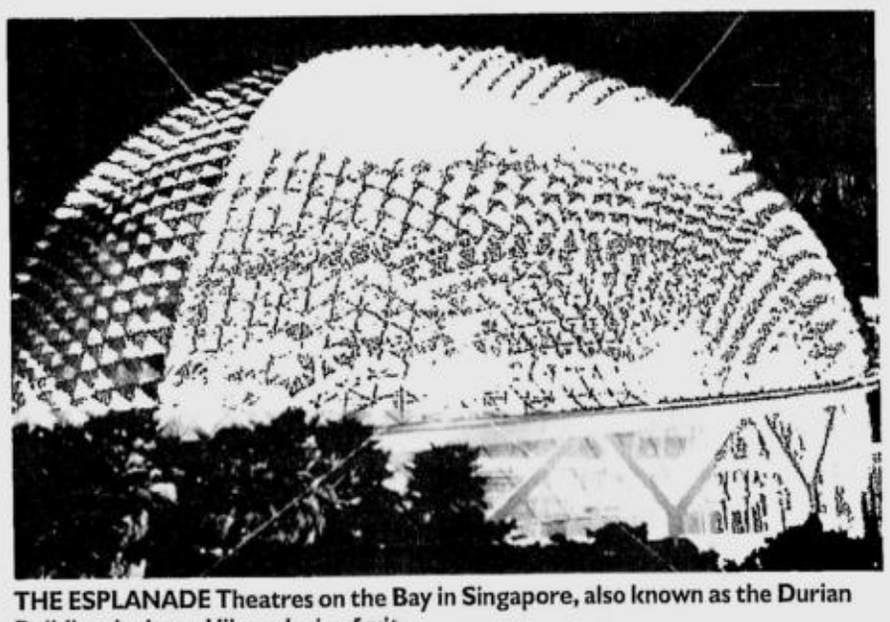
There are several different approaches to design, some better than others, often used in combination in varying degrees. One approach is the practical approach, whereby design is shaved down to the basic requirements of the proponent and plugging any loopholes with no-frills solutions. This is a good approach for budget-conscious owners or developers who have minimal intention of using their own building. It is also the easy first step for first-time homeowners and young architects.

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

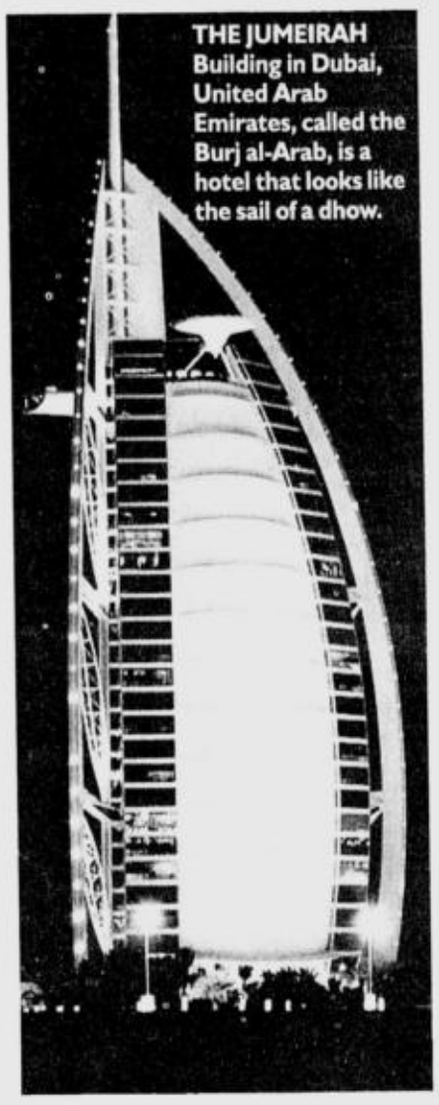
Marcos de Guzman Jr.

A second approach is the nature-loving design, whereby great attention is given to the surrounding natural elements and landscape and tailor-fitting the project to these. This is evident in buildings which bring nature indoors or use existing rocks and trees as important features of the resulting building.

Next, we have the "thoughtful" design, created by architects who probe and analyze the owners' personality and lifestyle, desiring to create for them the building that would most suit their wants and needs. This style is more complicated and involved because several factors have to be considered. The building must not only be usable, but ideally, lovable. It does not have to be a showcase of artistry, but it must have the owners' present and medium-term interests down pat.



THE ESPLANADE Theatres on the Bay in Singapore, also known as the Durian Building, is shaped like a durian fruit.



THE JUMEIRAH Building in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, called the Burj al-Arab, is a hotel that looks like the sail of a dhow.

Fad of the moment

There is another style of design prevalent today. This is the "bandwagon" design, which caters to the fad of the moment. The shape of buildings, the colors and features, the materials and furnishings are dictated by contemporary taste. Only time will tell how successful this design will turn out for its user.

One final approach to design (although many more may be interpolated from the above) is the artistic style. In this method, a design concept is developed based less on purpose or practicality, but more on its artistic value. In fact, the purpose of the design may not be readily clear, but even from the outset, it is perceived as beautiful.

In such designs, intricate attention is paid to the use of forms and space, the play of light and shadow, or the wielding of colors and textures. The inspiration for the design is often totally unrelated to the structure itself or its intended use. Practicality bows to creativity, because the purpose of the building is not really the owner's, but its own.

Another issue regarding buildings such as these is that the construction cost cannot be measured by the price of its materials, in the same manner that a sculptural piece is more valuable than the cost per pound of the stone, wood or steel used to produce it. The poet in the designer can draw out from the very ordinary materials, a stunning creation that can evoke a variety of reactions and moods. This "poeticism" of design is often the reason for clashes between the architect and the civil engineer, if not between the architect and the proponent himself. The only way such a project can push through is if the architect and the owner think alike or at least share the same vision.

In this last category of design fall some of the most outstanding buildings of the world. In the past, this approach was espoused by the renowned German architect, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, one of the masters of modern architecture and who "forwarded the concept not of the poetry of true simplicity, but the simplicity of true poetry." (Paul Goldberger, New York Times, Feb.1986) His designs, though ostensibly simple, were complex works of art that distilled architecture down to its essences. Another stalwart designer was his contemporary, Frank Lloyd Wright, whose designs are still as remarkable today, as when he first envisioned them.

THE NATIONAL Olympic Stadium in Beijing, China, now under construction for the coming Olympic Games, resembles a bird's nest.

Most outstanding buildings

Today, we can mention a few outstanding designs that, albeit not the most practical, are among the landmarks of our modern landscape. In Jumeirah, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, there is the Burj al-Arab, created by Thomas Wills Wright (architect) and WS Atkins and Partners (construction). This hotel looks like the sail of a dhow, an Arabian vessel. In Beijing, China, there is the National Stadium currently under construction, on an award-winning design by Herzog and De Meuron and the China Architectural Design and Research Group. This sports arena for the coming Olympic Games is detailed like a bird's nest, a favorite oriental delicacy. In Singapore, there is The Esplanade Theatres on the Bay, also known as the Durian Building, created by Michael Wilford and Partners and DP Architects. This performance and arts venue is shaped like a durian, a distinctly Asian fruit.

The designs are all eye-catching and massive, the materials are strong, and the poetic statements are explicit. As Louis Henry Sullivan, a most innovative modern architect and writer, once said, "The essence of things is taking shape in the matter of things... where unfailingly in nature these shapes express the inner life... Art should reveal the creative method of nature."

Filipino living, European masterplanning

FOR FILIPINOS ABROAD, NOTHING SEEMS to ever come close to the luxury of space and time afforded only in the gentle suburbs. In whatever country or continent, relaxed pace of living is a premium rarely found and savored.

In the Philippines, now there is a place that recreates this enviable atmosphere of a family sanctuary, and yet still being accessible to the modern conveniences and advantages of city living.

One Serendra is the vision of luxurious suburban condominium living from Ayala Land Premier, the new brand for top-end development of the Philippines' most experienced and trusted real estate developer, Ayala Land. It is located in the prime Bonifacio Global City, the premier business district complementing the nearby Makati Central Business District.

ONE Serendra provides inimitable luxurious suburban condo living in Bonifacio Global City with its spacious units.

Truly unique condo living

One Serendra boasts of a masterplan that blends the best of Filipino *bahay na bato* architecture and European low- to mid-rise housing design evident in such landmark developments as Berlin's Tegel Harbor and Potatisakern in Sweden. The result is truly unique condominium living that is sprawling and spacious, with 65 percent of the area dedicated to greenery and open spaces.

With the fast-track development of the Bonifacio Global City and the recent launch of a new masterplan for the heart of the district, the City Center, One Serendra will be part of the wave of positive lifestyle changes in Metropolitan Manila. Add to that the track record of Ayala Land in providing developments with exclusivity and value over time, and finding a home in One Serendra is a wise decision more than ever.

FILIPINOS abroad will find coming home to One Serendra an experience that matches the freedom of space and comfort in the best masterplanned communities worldwide.

THE FIRST phase of One Serendra is on-track with its construction and target turnover by 1st quarter of next year.

Living the One Serendra vision is not too far away as construction and development is right on track. The initial sections of its low and mid-rise areas are 80 percent constructed, on track with the promise of turnover by the first quarter of 2007—merely a few years since the development's launch in 2004. Later in 2007, Sections B and C will also be ready for occupancy for the early One Serendra buyers. These sections are currently near the halfway mark in construction.

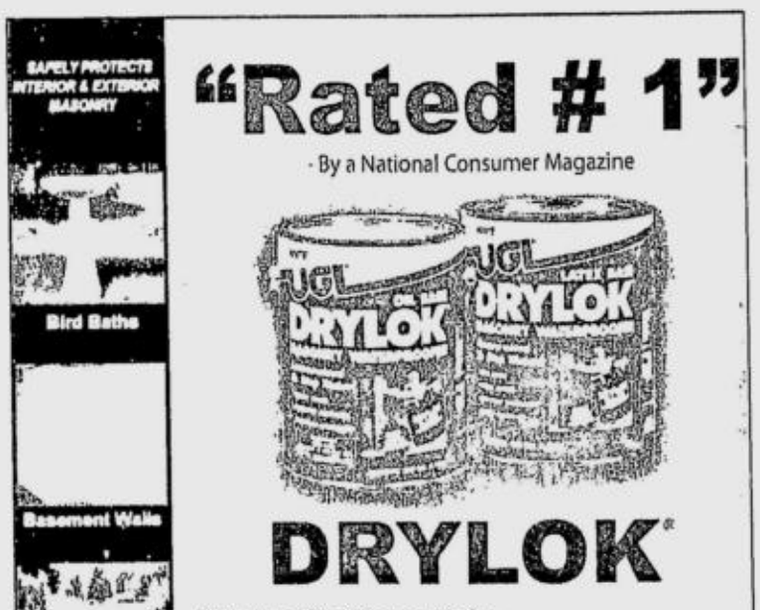
Spacious additions

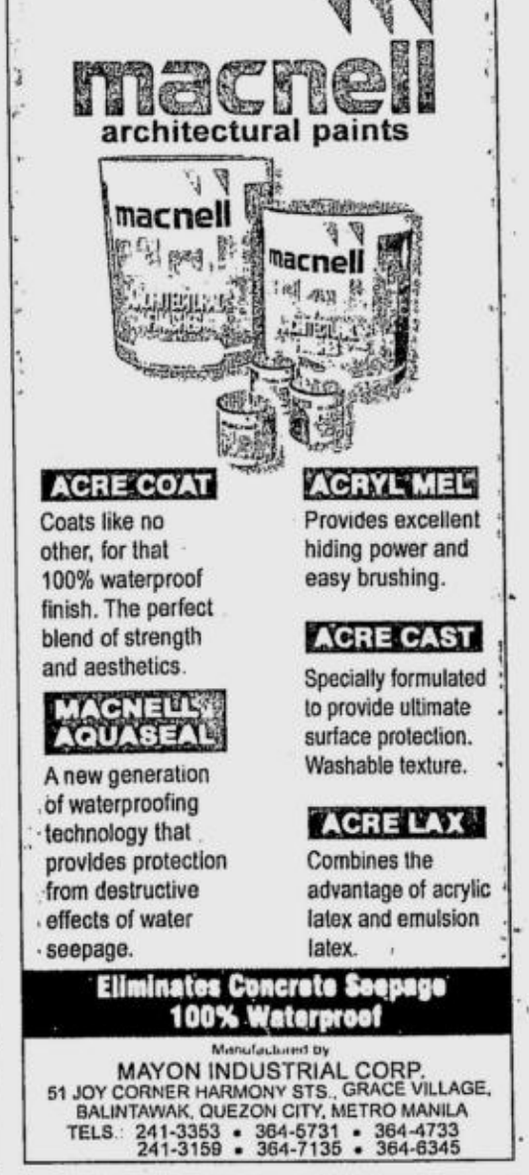
Inventory of units in Section D, the last of the coveted low-rise sections, was recently launched in April and has since been eagerly availed of by the market. Selected units in Section D feature lanai areas, a truly unique proposition not to be found in any other condominium development.

These spacious additions provide condominium living comparable to single-detached houses or bungalows. Add to that exclusive, low-density amenities such as a spa, gym and fitness centers, underground courts, and children's play areas, and luxurious living is complete.

At One Serendra, explore the world just beyond your doorstep with its quaint retail area, a revolutionary concept that brings the best of world cultures within a promenade of one-of-a-kind shops, cafés and restaurants. Unwinding at One Serendra is part of the complete lifestyle of freedom, spaciousness amid nature, and a pace of living that feels like a privileged vacation every day.

Visit One Serendra model units at the Sales Pavilion on 26th Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig or call 889-1SER (1737), e-mail oneserendra@ayalalandpremier.com or visit www.oneserendra.com.





REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS

Fiscal Year 2005

BALANCE SHEET

The Consolidated Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2005 of Local Governments (79 provinces, 117 cities and 1,482 municipalities), excluding barangays, showed assets of P390 billion, liabilities of P82.9 billion, deferred credits of P21.7 billion and equity of P285.4 billion. Financial statements of 20 municipalities were not included for failure to submit the reports as of cut-off date. The highlights of Local Governments' financial condition are:

1. ASSETS – P390 billion

Compared to last year's level of P351.5 billion, total assets of P390 billion at yearend registered an increase of P38.4 billion or 10.9 percent, of which P14.8 billion was on Property, Plant and Equipment. Current Assets aggregated P114.8 billion or 29.4 percent of the total assets.

Top Ten Provinces, Cities and Municipalities Based on Current Assets
(in million pesos)

Provinces	Amount	Cities	Amount	Municipalities	Amount
Cebu	1,242.7	Quezon	9,190.9	Biñan, Laguna	652.0
Zamboanga del Norte	893.4	Manila	3,955.4	San Juan, Metro Manila	581.7
Quezon	816.9	Makati	3,726.4	Pagbilao, Quezon	546.4
Iloilo	811.0	Pasig	2,509.7	Sto. Tomas, Batangas	462.6
Batangas	782.5	Iligan	2,268.2	Cainta, Rizal	419.7
Negros Occidental	743.7	Cebu	1,744.2	Mariveles, Bataan	415.0
Negros Oriental	740.5	Zamboanga	1,601.8	Cabuyao, Laguna	376.7
Laguna	705.1	Caloocan	1,375.5	Mauban, Quezon	304.7
Nueva Ecija	643.6	Olongapo	1,375.4	Dasmariñas, Cavite	289.5
Isabela	617.5	Taguig	1,354.4	Bauang, La Union	261.4

Cash accounts of P70.1 billion constitute 61 percent of the total Current Assets broken down as follows: Cash in Bank – P66.3 billion and Cash on Hand – P3.8 billion. The provinces, cities and municipalities with the highest amount of Cash in Bank are included in the following table:

LGUs with Substantial Amount of Cash in Bank
(in million pesos)

Provinces	Amount	Cities	Amount	Municipalities	Amount
Cebu	899.0	Quezon	4,876.3	San Juan, Metro Manila	484.4
Zamboanga del Norte	785.3	Makati	2,861.0	Sto. Tomas, Batangas	313.9
Quezon	744.5	Manila	2,122.9	Pagbilao, Quezon	277.7
Batangas	699.4	Pasig	1,933.1	Dasmariñas, Cavite	261.5
Negros Oriental	596.7	Zamboanga	1,482.1	Biñan, Laguna	247.5
Iloilo	471.0	Cebu	1,044.5	Valencia, Negros Oriental	197.4
Rizal	468.4	Baguio	995.7	Rosario, Cavite	185.1
Isabela	467.4	General Santos	644.7	Navotas, Metro Manila	184.4
Laguna	451.9	Las Piñas	635.8	Cainta, Rizal	141.6
Lanao del Norte	444.9	Valenzuela	630.3	Bacoor, Cavite	111.1

2. LIABILITIES AND DEFERRED CREDITS – P104.6 billion

Total liabilities at yearend hit the P82.9 billion level, showing a growth of P12.1 billion or 17 percent over last year's P70.8 billion. Deferred Credits of P21.7 billion recorded an increase of P7.7 billion or 55.3 percent higher compared with last y ear's P14 billion. It consists of Deferred Real Property and Special Education Tax Income – P18.4 billion and Other Deferred Credits – P3.3 billion.

Top Ten Provinces, Cities and Municipalities Based on Total Liabilities
(in million pesos)

Provinces	Amount	Cities	Amount	Municipalities	Amount
Nueva Ecija	1,117.6	Cebu	5,955.1	San Juan, Metro Manila	569.0
Bataan	734.7	Manila	3,641.4	Meycauayan, Bulacan	278.0
Palawan	712.9	Makati	3,561.9	Navotas, Metro Manila	228.6
Batangas	676.9	Quezon	2,222.8	Pagbilao, Quezon	190.1
Cebu	660.5	Caloocan	2,000.5	Bacoor, Cavite	172.0
Isabela	657.4	Pasay	1,400.2	Rodriguez, Rizal	171.6
Negros Occidental	647.3	Puerto Princesa	1,151.4	Dasmariñas, Cavite	167.3
Lanao del Norte	567.6	Paranaque	1,075.4	Imus, Cavite	150.0
Ilocos Sur	525.9	Mandaluyong	1,019.8	San Pedro, Laguna	149.4
Bulacan	506.4	Cagayan de Oro	956.8	Cainta, Rizal	145.6

3. EQUITY – P285.4 billion

From the balance of P266.7 billion in 2004, Equity grew by P18.7 billion or 7 percent this year. The increase by the net income realized during the year amounting to P36.6 billion and an adjustment made in the beginning balance of P0.8 billion. However, it was partly reduced by prior year's transactions of P2.7 billion and transfer of Public Infrastructures and Reforestation Projects of P 16.1 billion to their respective registries.

Top Ten Provinces, Cities and Municipalities Based on Total Equity
(in million pesos)

Provinces	Amount	Cities	Amount	Municipalities	Amount
Cebu	5,348.1	Quezon	16,866.6	Cainta, Rizal	1,305.0
Rizal	2,836.7	Makati	16,162.2	San Juan, Metro Manila	1,276.7
Bulacan	2,471.0	Manila	8,893.0	Biñan, Laguna	948.6
Laguna	2,446.4	Pasig	8,299.0	Cabuyao, Laguna	754.0
Negros Occidental	2,263.5	Cebu	3,996.0	Dasmariñas, Cavite	514.2
Tarlac	2,160.6	Zamboanga	3,625.5	Sto. Tomas, Batangas	501.6
Cavite	2,115.8	Caloocan	3,139.9	Bacoor, Cavite	477.4
Ilocos Sur	2,084.5	Davao	2,953.8	Navotas, Metro Manila	470.6
Negros Oriental	1,614.2	Marikina	2,749.2	Rosario, Cavite	434.5
Batangas	1,573.8	Pasay	2,582.3	Mauban, Quezon	419.3

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

In 2005, LGUs' financial operations showed total income amounting to P195.6 billion, total expenses of P159 billion and net income of P36.6 billion. The highlights of the results of operations of the Local Governments are:

1. INCOME– P195.6 billion

Through the exercise of fiscal power to create their own sources of revenue and with the adoption of campaign strategies to improve the collection of local taxes, LGUs generated a total income of P195.6 billion higher by P22.1 billion or 12.7 percent compared to 2004 level of P173.5 billion. List of ten LGUs, by unit which generated the highest, median and lowest gross income for the year is shown below:

LGUs with the Highest, Median and Lowest Gross Income
(in million pesos)

Provinces	Amount	Cities	Amount	Municipalities	Amount
Highest					
Cebu	1,509.5	Manila	7,443.5	San Juan, Metro Manila	658.8
Bulacan	1,493.6	Quezon	6,952.3	Biñan, Laguna	518.2
Negros Occidental	1,328.6	Makati	6,458.0	Cainta, Rizal	474.1
Laguna	1,275.5	Pasig	3,230.9	Dasmariñas, Cavite	439.0
Cavite	1,265.4	Davao	2,436.6	Cabuyao, Laguna	421.4
Pangasinan	1,255.2	Caloocan	2,156.9	General Trias, Cavite	387.5
Rizal	1,209.1	Cebu	2,135.0	Bacoor, Cavite	347.0
Batangas	1,104.5	Mandaluyong	1,601.6	Navotas, Metro Manila	337.1
Quezon	1,068.7	Parañaque	1,596.2	Rosario, Cavite	335.3
Bukidnon	1,044.5	Pasay	1,450.6	Imus, Cavite	308.3
Median					
Capiz	514.7	Valencia	360.8	Alilem, Ilocos Sur	36.3
Davao del Norte	510.2	Dagupan	357.4	Salcedo, Ilocos Sur	36.3
Compostela Valley	497.5	Legazpi	356.9	Castilla, Sorsogon	36.2
South Cotabato	496.3	Surigao	356.2	San Andres, Catanduanes	36.2
Davao del Sur	491.3	Bayawan	347.5	Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija	36.2
Samar	485.6	Sagay	343.0	Tigaon, Camarines Sur	36.1
Mindoro Oriental	476.7	Cadiz	338.1	Anda, Pangasinan	36.1
Misamis Oriental	475.0	Pagadian	332.8	Sta. Ana, Pampanga	36.1
Masbate	455.1	Bago	331.7	Mayoyao, Ifugao	36.1
Abra	455.1	Gingoog	328.9	Moalboal, Cebu	36.0
Lowest					
Romblon	264.9	Iriga	200.9	Sabtang, Batanes	12.4
Ifugao	263.3	Isabela	200.4	Lumbaca-Unayan, Lanao del Sur	12.3
Catanduanes	261.5	Oroquieta	195.6	Burgos, Surigao del Norte	12.3
Mt. Province	246.4	Trece Martires	192.9	Limasawa, Leyte	12.0
Marinduque	231.0	La Carlota	189.9	Mahatao, Batanes	11.9
Guimaras	209.2	Science City of Muñoz	180.1	Ivana, Batanes	11.5
Biliran	187.9	Vigan	175.1	Uyugan Batanes	11.1
Siquijor	168.1	Tangub	168.5	Pualas, Lanao del Sur	5.7
Camiguin	156.7	Canlaon	158.9	Gigmoto, Catanduanes	5.3
Batanes	133.1	Palayan	125.6	Ramos, Tarlac	1.6

Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) amounting to P121.4 billion accounted for 62.1 percent of the total income. The ten LGUs which received the highest, median and the lowest share of IRA from the National Government for the current year is shown below:

LGUs with the Highest, Median and Lowest Share of Internal Revenue Allotment
(in million pesos)

Provinces	Amount	Cities	Amount	Municipalities	Amount
Highest					
Pangasinan	993.3	Quezon	1,548.2	Dasmariñas, Cavite	202.8
Cebu	979.1	Davao	1,480.2	Bacoor, Cavite	163.7
Negros Occidental	965.8	Manila	1,154.1	Navotas, Metro Manila	133.9
Bulacan	869.1	Zamboanga	844.6	Cainta, Rizal	133.0
Quezon	818.6	Caloocan	844.6	Sablayan, Mindoro Occidental	130.2
Isabela	808.2	Puerto Princesa	797.1	San Pedro, Laguna	126.6
Palawan	777.5	Cebu	640.6	Ilagan, Batanes	118.7
Cavite	766.7	Cagayan de Oro	484.9	Imus, Cavite	114.3
Batangas	763.4	General Santos	484.7	Taytay, Rizal	112.2
Laguna	761.3	Iligan	472.4	Biñan, Laguna	112.1
Median					
Sultan Kudarat	420.7	San Fernando	233.7	San Teodoro, Mindoro Oriental	30.1
Davao del Norte	409.6	Kidapawan	233.1	Trinidad, Bohol	30.1
Surigao del Sur	403.2	Digos	230.9	Maasin, Iloilo	30.1
Davao Oriental	398.9	Cauayan	228.2	Pila, Laguna	30.1
Capiz	395.4	Lapu-lapu	226.1	Castillejos, Zambales	30.1
Misamis Oriental	395.3	Himamaylan	226.1	Mabini, Batangas	30.0
Compostela Valley	389.7	Panabo	225.5	Jagna, Bohol	30.0
Northern Samar	388.2	Toledo	224.1	San Andres, Quezon	30.0
Mindoro Occidental	387.4	Cotabato	224.0	Llanera, Nueva Ecija	30.0
Ilocos Sur	387.3	Bislig	223.8	Alaminos, Laguna	29.9
Lowest					
Catanduanes	249.9	Dumaguete	147.1	Limasawa, Leyte	11.5
Aurora	246.9	Canlaon	147.0	Burgos, Surigao del Norte	11.5
Ifugao	244.0	La Carlota	144.2	Mahatao, Batanes	10.6
Mountain Province	222.3	Cavite	139.9	Uyugan, Batanes	10.4
Marinduque	208.8	Tagbilaran	135.8	Ivana, Batanes	10.2
Biliran	171.0	Candon	132.6	Pualas, Lanao del Sur	5.6
Guimaras	166.9	Tagaytay	120.4	Gigmoto, Catanduanes	5.1
Siquijor	153.7	Palayan	119.7	Ramos, Tarlac	1.5
Camiguin	143.8	Vigan	109.3	Loreto, Agusan del Sur	0.4
Batanes	124.9	Trece Martires	109.3	Bato, Leyte	0.1

2. EXPENSES – P159 billion

For fiscal year 2005, LGUs incurred expenses totaling P159 billion, posting an increase of P15.3 billion or 17 percent from P143.7 billion in 2004. List of ten highest, median and lowest spenders for the year is shown below:

LGUs with the Highest, Median and Lowest Expenses
(in million pesos)

Provinces	Amount	Cities	Amount	Municipalities	Amount
Highest					
Cebu	1,260.7	Manila	5,997.3	San Juan, Metro Manila	494.0
Bulacan	1,206.5	Quezon	4,299.4	Cabuyao, Laguna	362.6
Negros Occidental	1,183.5	Makati	4,098.5	Cainta, Rizal	358.3
Laguna	1,067.0	Davao	2,319.0	Biñan, Laguna	314.8
Bukidnon	996.8	Pasig	2,171.8	Bacoor, Cavite	291.2
Pangasinan	957.5	Caloocan	1,642.8	Dasmariñas, Cavite	285.2
Cavite	926.1	Cebu	1,623.9	General Trias, Cavite	282.9
Quezon	902.2	Mandaluyong	1,498.4	Navotas, Metro Manila	274.8
Iloilo	841.0	Parañaque	1,432.9	Imus, Cavite	274.5
Zamboanga del Norte	837.7	Pasay	1,178.8	Meycauayan, Bulacan	238.5
Median					
Davao del Sur	421.2	Naga	296.6	Initao, Misamis Oriental	32.0
Albay	418.6	Sagay	282.8	Kadingilan, Bukidnon	32.0
Surigao del Sur	407.8	Cotabato	269.3	Caramoran, Catanduanes	31.9
Compostela Valley	388.7	Pagadian	253.6	Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay	31.8
Mindoro Occidental	383.3	Kidapawan	253.2	Santa Josefa, Agusan del Sur	31.8
Sultan Kudarat	360.6	Urdaneta	250.6	Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte	31.8
Davao Oriental	349.1	Gingoog	248.0	Aleosan, Cotabato	31.7
Masbate	338.9	Tuguegarao	205.5	Enrile, Cagayan	31.7
Samar	330.5	Ozamis	311.6	Flora, Apayao	31.7
Mindoro Oriental	399.9	Valencia	306.4	Lian, Batangas	31.7
Lowest					
Basilan	203.5	Canlaon	135.3	San Jose, Romblon	11.9
Tawi-Tawi	256.0	Tabaco	118.3	Sigay, Ilocos Sur	11.8
Apayao	254.5	Maasin	109.7	Ivana, Batanes	11.7
Mt. Province	207.5	Ligao	106.2	Mahatao, Batanes	11.2
Marinduque	201.1	Escalante	171.2	Uyugan, Batanes	9.8
Guimaras	174.7	Alaminos	152.3	Limasawa, Southern Leyte	9.7
Biliran	160.2	Vigan	137.2	Concepcion, Misamis Occidental	9.4
Siquijor	122.4	Palayan	118.7	Pualas, Lanao Del Sur	5.6
Camiguin	135.1	Isabela	116.1	Gigmoto, Catanduanes	5.5
Batanes	115.6	Science City of Muñoz	110.7	Ramos, Tarlac	2.4

3. NET INCOME– P36.6 billion

For the period ended December 31, 2005, LGUs financial performance resulted to a net income of P36.6 billion, higher by P6.8 billion or 22.7 percent compared to the previous year's net income of P29.8 billion. List of ten LGUs which realized the highest, median and lowest net income for the year is shown below:

LGUs with the Highest, Median and Lowest Net Income
(in million pesos)

Provinces	Amount	Cities	Amount	Municipalities	Amount
Highest					
Rizal	533.2	Quezon	2,652.9	Biñan, Laguna	203.4
Batangas	341.7	Makati	2,359.5	San, Juan, Metro Manila	164.8
Cavite	339.2	Manila	1,446.1	Dasmariñas, Cavite	153.8
Isabela	331.7	Pasig	1,059.1	Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija	142.1
Pangasinan	297.7	Caloocan	514.1	Rosario, Cavite	117.0
Bulacan	287.1	Cebu	511.1	Cainta, Rizal	115.8
Cebu	247.1	Zamboanga	485.0	General Trias, Cavite	104.5
Bataan	228.7	Calamba	444.7	Sual, Pangasinan	92.7
Nueva Ecija	225.5	Marikina	409.0	Sto. Tomas, Batangas	92.4
Nueva Vizcaya	221.8	Valenzuela	384.6	Santa Cruz, Ilocos Sur	76.8
Median					
Capiz	89.5	Pagadian	79.2	Espiritu/Banna, Ilocos Norte	4.1
Lanao del Sur	89.3	Marawi	74.8	Diplahan, Zamboanga Sibugay	4.1
Zambales	87.6	Bais	74.5	Canaman, Camarines Sur	4.1
Iloilo	81.4	San Fernando	72.8	Silvino Lobos, Northern Samar	4.1
Sultan Kudarat	80.6	Sorsogon	71.2	Looc, Occidental Mindoro	4.1
Mindoro Oriental	76.8	Science City of Muñoz	69.3	Pamplona, Negros Oriental	4.1
Aklan	74.6	Victorias	65.8	Pontevedra, Negros Occidental	4.1
South Cotabato	71.4	Puerto Princesa	62.2	Sapa-Sapa, TawiTawi	4.1
Maguindanao	71.1	Sagay	60.2	Quezon, Quezon	4.1
Basilan	70.3	Bayawan	59.7	Bula, Camarines Sur	4.1
Lowest					
Quirino	29.0	Toledo	19.8	Bacolor, Pampanga	32.9 [1]
Biliran	27.7	Dagupan	18.9	Villanueva, Misamis Oriental	22.6 [1]
Antique	27.6	Cabanatuan	17.5	Pandami, Sulu	18.9 [1]
Davao del Norte	26.6	Oroquieta	15.1	Tugaya, Lanao del Sur	17.5 [1]
Romblon	26.5	Balanga	12.9	Madalum, Lanao del Sur	16.6 [1]
Camiguin	21.6	Tangub	11.0	Pantar, Lanao del Norte	15.5 [1]
Catanduanes	20.3	Palayan	6.8	Maguing, Lanao del Sur	10.8 [1]
Batanes	17.4	Ozamis	5.0	Masiu, Lanao del Sur	10.3 [1]
Sulu	15.2	Iriga	4.9	Pangutaran, Sulu	9.4 [1]
Surigao del Sur	14.2	Bago	3.5	Amadeo, Cavite	@ [2]

[1] *in thousand pesos*
[2] *less than 100*

(PDI - Aug 26, 2006)

National Government of the Republic of the Philippines
Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
December 31, 2005
(in thousand pesos)

Balance Sheet

Particulars	2005	2004	Increase (Decrease) Amount	Increase (Decrease) Percent
ASSETS	**1,054,731,922.8**	**971,389,231.0**	**83,342,691.8**	**8.6**
Current Assets	194,259,684.3	141,984,410.0	52,275,274.4	36.8
Cash	786,240,774.7	759,313,984.4	26,926,790.3	3.5
Receivables	20,950,564.8	20,592,014.0	358,550.8	1.7
Inventories	50,531,232.0	46,770,896.2	3,760,335.8	8.0
Prepayments	2,749,667.1	2,727,926.5	21,740.6	0.8
Other Current Assets	**699,781,572.8**	**668,009,374.3**	**31,772,198.5**	**4.8**
Investments	**713,056,264.2**	**708,232,303.5**	**4,823,960.7**	**0.7**
Property, Plant and Equipment (net of Depreciation)	196,397,559.4	215,241,590.4	(18,844,030.9)	(8.8)
Land and Land Improvements and Leasehold Improvements	119,430,851.8	115,465,053.7	3,965,798.1	3.4
Buildings and Leasehold Improvements	27,528,367.6	28,224,525.5	(696,157.9)	(2.5)
Office Equipment, Furniture and Fixtures	36,523,777.0	42,333,787.6	(5,810,010.5)	(13.7)
Machineries and Equipment	18,323,875.1	16,873,224.8	1,450,650.3	8.6
Transportation Equipment	85,145,965.5	85,771,273.6	(625,308.1)	(0.7)
Other Property, Plant and Equipment and Leasehold Improvements	229,705,867.7	204,322,847.9	25,383,019.7	12.4
Construction-in-Progress	**16,838,600.6**	**15,669,106.5**	**1,169,494.1**	**7.5**
Other Assets	**2,484,408,360.4**	**2,363,300,015.2**	**121,108,345.2**	**5.1**
TOTAL ASSETS				
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	**212,800,800.5**	**225,895,902.8**	**(13,095,102.3)**	**(5.8)**
Current Liabilities	179,234,362.1	197,278,193.7	(18,043,831.5)	(9.1)
Payable Accounts	33,566,438.4	28,617,709.1	4,948,729.3	17.3
Other Liability Accounts	**3,885,688,655.7**	**3,706,276,822.7**	**179,411,833.0**	**4.8**
Long-Term Liabilities	2,190,550,305.3	2,008,639,090.7	181,911,214.7	9.1
Domestic	1,695,138,350.3	1,697,637,732.0	(2,499,381.7)	(0.1)
Foreign	**4,098,489,456.2**	**3,932,172,725.5**	**166,316,730.7**	**4.2**
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**50,279,714.7**	**57,305,809.4**	**(7,026,094.7)**	**(12.3)**
Deferred Credits				
Equity	**(1,664,360,810.4)**	**(1,626,178,519.7)**	**(38,182,290.7)**	**2.3**
Government Equity	**2,484,408,360.4**	**2,363,300,015.2**	**121,108,345.2**	**5.1**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY				

Difference between totals and sum of components is due to rounding off

Statement of Government Equity

Particulars	2005	2004	Increase (Decrease) Amount	Increase (Decrease) Percent
Government Equity, Beginning Balance	**(1,626,178,519.7)**	**(1,196,843,509.0)**	**(429,335,010.8)**	**35.9**
Retained Operating Surplus	**100,637,463.6**	**(282,693,631.6)**	**383,331,095.2**	**(135.6)**
Current Operations	19,306,938.6	(344,176,672.2)	363,483,610.8	(105.6)
Prior Years' and Other Adjustments	81,330,524.9	61,483,040.6	19,847,484.3	32.3
Transfer to Registry of Public Infrastructures	**(137,612,233.2)**	**(144,861,155.1)**	**7,248,921.9**	**(5.0)**
Transfer to Registry of Reforestration Projects	**(1,207,521.1)**	**(1,780,224.1)**	**572,703.0**	**(32.2)**
Government Equity, Ending Balance	**(1,664,360,810.4)**	**(1,626,178,519.7)**	**(38,182,290.7)**	**2.3**

Difference between totals and sum of components is due to rounding off

Statement of Income and Expenses

Particulars	2005	2004	Increase (Decrease) Amount	Increase (Decrease) Percent
INCOME	**838,909,832.1**	**725,531,993.4**	**113,377,838.7**	**15.6**
Tax Revenue	**695,193,423.6** [1]	**597,642,873.0** [1]	**97,550,550.6**	**16.3**
General Income	**143,716,408.5**	**127,889,120.4**	**15,827,288.1**	**12.4**
Permits and Licenses	7,677,106.6 [2]	6,986,565.9 [2]	690,540.7	9.9
Service Income	48,041,209.5	46,741,559.3	1,299,650.2	2.8
Business Income	5,733,714.5	8,122,411.9	(2,388,697.5)	(29.4)
Other Income	82,264,378.0	66,038,583.2	16,225,794.7	24.6
LESS: OPERATING EXPENSES	**391,044,143.7**	**363,450,173.4**	**27,593,970.3**	**7.6**
Personal Services	298,939,482.5	282,071,276.4	16,868,206.1	6.0
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	92,104,661.1	81,378,897.0	10,725,764.1	13.2
Net Income (Loss) from Current Operations	**447,865,688.5**	**362,081,820.0**	**85,783,868.4**	**23.7**
Less: Financial Expenses	314,776,934.6	284,937,615.4 [3]	29,839,319.2	10.5
Net Income before Other Income/Expenses	**133,088,753.8**	**77,144,204.6**	**55,944,549.2**	**72.5**
Deduct Subsidy to -	**204,503,949.6**	**179,559,323.6**	**24,944,626.0**	13.9
National Government Agencies	21,370,422.3	21,200,344.0	170,078.4	0.8
Local Government Units	157,467,368.2	140,170,839.9	17,296,528.3	12.3
Government Owned and Controlled Corporations	25,492,560.4	17,987,760.6	7,504,799.7	41.7
NGOs/POs	173,598.7	200,379.0	(26,780.3)	(13.4)
Add (Deduct) Net/Gain (Loss)	**90,722,134.4**	**(241,761,553.2)**	**332,483,687.7**	**(137.5)**
Loss of Assets	(106,371.1)	(195,636,478.2) [4]	195,530,107.1	(99.9)
Loss on Guaranty	(14,856,856.2)	(9,930,115.2) [5]	(4,926,741.1)	49.6
Gain/Loss on Foreign Exchange (FOREX)	106,590,142.9	(36,223,842.0)	142,813,984.9	(394.3)
Gain/Loss on Sale of Disposed Assets	(39,520.1)	(31,637.6)	(7,882.5)	24.9
Gain/Loss on Sale of Securities	(865,261.0)	60,519.7	(925,780.7)	(1,529.7)
NET INCOME (LOSS)	**19,306,938.6**	**(344,176,672.2)**	**363,483,610.8**	**(105.6)**

Difference between total and sum of components is due to rounding off

[1&2] *Motor Vehicle Users Charge amounting to P 6,529,1 billion is transferred from Tax Revenue to Permits and Licenses per Chart of Accounts*

[3&5] *Loss on Guaranty amounting to P 9.9 billion was presented under Financial Expenses in FY 2004. It is now presented separately under caption Gain/Loss*

[4] *Includes P 195.5 billion due to the absorption of National Power Corporation's Liabilities pursuant to RA 9136 (Electric Power Industry Reform Act)*

Statement of Cash Flows

Particulars	2005	2004	Increase (Decrease) Amount	Increase (Decrease) Percent
Cash Flow from Operating Activities:				
Cash Inflows	1,503,986,031.1	1,427,179,205.3	76,806,825.7	5.4
Cash Ouflows	1,294,443,702.3	1,256,014,692.6	38,429,009.7	3.1
Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities	**209,542,328.8**	**171,164,512.7**	**38,377,816.0**	**22.4**
Cash Flow from Investing Activities:				
Cash Inflows	395,065,737.4	312,260,948.5	82,804,788.9	26.5
Cash Ouflows	462,808,051.9	537,404,924.6	(74,596,872.8)	(13.9)
Cash Provided by (Used in) Investing Activities	**(67,742,314.5)**	**(225,143,976.1)**	**157,401,661.6**	**69.9**
Cash Flow from Financing Activities:				
Cash Inflows	1,609,033,255.9 [1]	1,586,966,211.7	22,067,044.2	1.4
Cash Ouflows	1,687,444,463.8 [2]	1,566,261,848.0	121,182,615.8	7.7
Cash Provided by (Used in) Financing Activities	**(78,411,207.9)**	**20,704,363.7**	**(99,115,571.6)**	**(478.7)**
Total Cash provided by Operating, Investing and Financing Activities	**63,388,806.4**	**(33,275,099.6)**	**96,663,906.0**	**290.5**
Add: Cash Balance, Beginning	**141,980,230.3** [3]	**175,259,509.5**	**(33,279,279.1)**	**(19.0)**
Cash Balance at the End	**205,369,036.7** [4]	**141,984,410.0**	**63,384,626.8**	**44.6**

Difference between total and sum of components is due to rounding off

[1] *Includes proceeds from Domestic and Foreign Loans of P 1,027.5 billion and P 19.9 billion, respectively.*

[2] *Includes payment of Domestic Loans - P 1,028.2 billion, Foreign Loans - P 72.7 billion, Interest Expenses - P 234.8 billion, Interest Payable - P 1.3 billion, Commitment Fees - P149.3 million, Other Financial Charges - P1,433.0 million and Loss on Guaranty - P 10.8 billion*

[3] *Excludes P4.2 million cash balance per 2004 Balance Sheet of two SUCs namely: Sulu State College and Tawi-Tawi Regional Agricultural College which failed to submit their Individual Statement of Cash Flows*

[4] *The difference of P 11.1 billion in the yearend cash balances between the Balance Sheet of P 194.3 billion and the Statement of Cash Flows of P205.4 billion represents Sinking Fund - Cash presented in the Balance Sheet of DOF-BTr under Investment-Sinking Fund following the NGAS Chart of Accounts. The same being a cash transaction was however shown in the Statement of Cash Flows.*

Republic of the Philippines
Commission on Audit
Financial Statements of Government Owned and/or Controlled Corporations
December 31, 2005
(in thousand pesos)

Balance Sheet

Particulars	Amount	Percent
ASSETS		
International Reserves	763,996,803.0	16.0
Current Assets		
Cash	335,172,309.2	7.0
Short-Term Investments	154,318,795.0	3.2
Accounts Receivable	802,030,135.2	16.8
Inventories	86,587,051.6	1.8
Prepayments and Deferred Charges	46,313,434.2	1.0
Other Current Assets	4,340,064.5	0.1
Total Current Assets	1,093,589,480.5	45.8
Investments	1,056,878,470.5	22.1
Property, Plant and Equipment	1,269,547,417.3	26.5
Intangibles	2,654,274.1	0.1
Other Assets	265,693,436.5	5.5
Total Assets	4,787,532,191.2	100.0
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Current Liabilities	1,450,765,654.8	30.0
Long-Term Debt	2,236,868,248.6	47.0
Total Liabilities	3,687,633,903.4	77.0
Deferred Credits	62,953,473.7	1.0
EQUITY	1,036,944,814.1	22.0
Total Liabilities and Equity	4,787,532,191.2	100.0

Statement of Income and Expenses

Particulars	Amount	Percent
Income	708,116,086.7	100.0
Permits and Licenses	635,050.0	0.1
Service Income	12,282,909.4	1.7
Business Income	516,336,682.1	72.9
Other Income	60,691,208.1	8.6
Gain/Premiums	118,170,237.1	16.7
Less: Share of National Government	12,530,636.1	1.8
Income after Share of National Government	695,585,450.6	98.2
Expenses	533,517,981.0	75.3
Personal Services	49,838,329.5	7.0
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	386,412,017.1	54.6
Financial Expenses	97,267,634.3	13.7
Net Income Before Subsidy	162,067,469.6	22.9
Add: Subsidy from Other National Government Agencies	18,843,583.2	2.7
Subsidy from Local Government Units	709,374.7	0.1
Subsidy from Government Owned and/or Controlled Corporations	106,708.8	0.0
Subsidy from Subsidiaries/Affiliates	5,758.6	0.0
Net Income Before Tax	181,732,894.9	25.7
Less Provision for (Benefit from) Income Tax	7,179,276.3	1.0
Minimum Corporate Income Tax	36,847.6	0.0
Final and Creditable Withholding Tax	16,686.5	0.0
NET INCOME AFTER TAX	174,500,084.5	24.6

Statement of Changes in Equity

Particulars	Amount	Percent
Government Equity		
Balance at beginning of the year	163,628,684.0	15.8
Balance of Intra-Agency Accounts	(7,679.0)	(0.0)
Additions	10,458,882.0	1.0
Balance at end of the year	174,079,887.0	16.8
Capital Stock		
Balance at beginning of the year	227,137,886.0	21.9
Deposit for Future Subcriptions	425,680.1	0.0
Deductions	(2,165,510.3)	(0.2)
Balance at end of the year	225,398,055.8	21.7
Subscribed Capital Stock		
Balance at beginning of the year	5,290,641.5	0.5
Additions	21,714.2	0.0
Balance at end of the year	5,312,355.8	0.5
Donated Capital		
Balance at beginning of the year	12,561,248.8	1.2
Deductions	(134,760.5)	(0.0)
Balance at end of the year	12,426,488.2	1.2
Paid-in Capital Stock in Excess of Par Value		
Balance at beginning of the year	1,193,058.9	0.1
Additions	854.1	0.0
Balance at end of the year	1,193,913.0	0.1
Appraisal Capital		
Balance at beginning of the year	204,588,972.3	19.7
Additions	63,716,130.0	6.1
Balance at end of the year	268,305,102.2	25.9
Treasury Stock		
Balance at beginning and end of the year	(1,167.4)	(0.0)
Restricted Capital		
Balance at beginning of the year	751,716,278.4	72.5
Additions	53,143,983.2	5.1
Balance at end of the year	804,860,261.6	77.6
Retained Earnings		
Balance at beginning of the year	(560,291,942.2)	(54.0)
Balance of Intra-Agency Accounts	459,036.7	0.0
Transfers to Reserves	(58,164,383.7)	(5.6)
Prior Years' Adjustments	(19,976,212.3)	(1.9)
Changes during the year	626,846.4	0.1
Net Income/Loss for the year	174,500,084.5	16.8
Dividends	(11,859,521.4)	(1.1)
Unrealized Loss on Marketable Securities	(4,377,225.7)	(0.4)
Unrealized Gain	28,290,033.9	2.7
Fluctuation reserves	(2,096,922.8)	(0.2)
Non-admitted assets	(1,739,875.5)	(0.2)
Balance at end of the year	(454,630,082.2)	(43.8)
Total Equity	1,036,944,814.1	100.0

Statement of Cash Flows

Particulars	Amount	Percent
Cash Flows From Operating Activities:		
Cash Inflows	946,828,694.0	50.1
Cash Outflows	721,638,917.2	38.2
Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities	225,189,776.8	11.9
Cash Flows From Investing Activities:		
Cash Inflows	577,887,801.0	30.6
Cash Outflows	579,673,881.8	30.7
Cash Provided by (Used in) Investing Activities	(1,786,080.8)	(0.1)
Cash Flows From Financing Activities:		
Cash Inflows	364,346,456.4	19.3
Cash Outflows	488,429,495.4	25.9
Cash Provided by (Used in) Financing Activities	(124,083,039.0)	(6.6)
Total Cash provided by Operating, Investing and Financing Activities	99,320,657.0	5.3
Effects of Exchange Rate Changes on Cash and Cash Equivalents	(45,726,615.6)	(2.4)
Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	53,594,041.4	8.4
Add: Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning January 1, 2005 as restated	585,607,220.4	91.6
Cash and Cash Equivalents, Ending December 31, 2005	639,201,261.7	100.0

Difference between totals and sum of components is due to rounding off

Balance Sheet

The Consolidated Balance Sheet of the 143 GOCCs as of December 31, 2005 reflected total Assets of ₱4,787.5 billion, Liabilities of ₱3,687.6 billion, Deferred Credits of ₱62.9 billion and Equity of ₱1,036.9 billion.

Statement of Income and Expenses

GOCCs realized a combined net income of ₱174.5 billion, posting a huge increase of 599.5 percent over last year's net income of ₱24.9 billion. Overall financial performance of GOCCs showed an increase of ₱148.5 billion in income or 26.5 percent and ₱1 billion in expenses or 0.2 percent.

Statement of Cash Flows

Total cash inflows from operating, investing and financing activities registered at P1,889.1 billion which is ₱ 825.9 billion or 77.7 percent higher than the previous year's P 1,060.2 billion. Total cash outflows grossed ₱1,789.7 billion. Compared to previous year's cash outflows, an increase of ₱658.2 billion or 58.2 percent was noted.

Statement of Changes in Equity

At year end, the consolidated equity of all GOCCs amounted to ₱1,036.9 billion or a significant increase of ₱287.6 billion or 38.4 percent compared to fiscal year 2004 of ₱749.3 billion.

(PDI - Aug. 26, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

IN THE MATTER OF THE ACTIVATION / CREATION OF THE ELECTION WORKING COMMITTEES IN CONNECTION WITH THE MAY 14, 2007 SYNCHORNIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS
x ----------x

ABALOS, Benjamin S. — Chairman
BORRA, Resurreccion Z. — Commissioner
TUASON, Florentino A., Jr. — Commissioner
BRAWNER, Romeo A. — Commissioner
SARMIENTO, Rene V. — Commissioner
FERRER, Nicodemo T. — Commissioner

Promulgated : 23 August 2006

RESOLUTION NO. 7699

WHEREAS, it is the constitutional duty of the Commission on Elections to ensure the holding of free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible elections;

WHEREAS, in order to carry out this mandate, the Commission on Election deems it necessary to constitute working committees which will undertake the pre-election, election and post election activities;

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 6435 promulgated by the Commission on December 4, 2003 activated/ created the following working committees; Allocation, Printing, Reception and Verification, Packing and Shipping, Media, Personnel and Gun Ban in connection with the May 10, 2004 Synchronized National and Local Elections, to wit:

	WORKING COMMITTEES	CIC-CHAIRMAN	VICE-CHAIRMAN
A.	Media & Information	Chairman Benjamin S. Abalos	Dir. Ferdinand T. Rafanan Dir. Milagros I. Desamito
B.	Firearms & Security Personnel (Gun Ban)	Chairman Benjamin S. Abalos	Dir. Alioden D. Dalaig
C.	Allocation	Comm. Resurreccion Z. Borra	Dir. Ester L. Villaflor-Roxas Dir. Divina Blas-Perez
D.	Printing	Comm. Rufino SB Javier	Dir. Lamberto P. Llamas
E.	Reception & Verification	Comm. Florentino A. Tuason, Jr.	Dir. Adolfo A. Ibañez
F.	Packing & Shipping	Comm. Mehol K. Sadain	Dir. Lamberto B. Pinpin
G.	Transportation & Communication	Comm. Mehol K. Sadain	Dir. Pio Jose S. Joson
H.	Absentee Voting Overseas Local	Comm. Florentino A. Tuason Jr.	Exec. Dir M.M. Aguam Atty. Betty B. Pizaña

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 05-0136 promulgated by the Commission on February 1, 2005 reactivated the Election Working Committees that planned and coordinated other election related activities, and prepared/drafted the necessary resolutions for the ARMM elections on August 12, 2005, to wit:

WORKING COMMITTEES	CIC-CHAIRMAN	VICE-CHAIRMAN
A. Media & Information	Chairman Benjamin S. Abalos	Dir. Milagros I. Desamito
B. Firearms & Security Personnel (Gun Ban)	Comm. Mehol K. Sadain	Dir. Alioden D. Dalaig
C. Allocation	Comm. Resurreccion Z. Borra	Dir. Ester L. Villaflor-Roxas
D. Printing	Comm. Rufino SB Javier	Exec. Dir. Pio Jose S. Joson
E. Reception & Verification	Comm. Florentino A. Tuason, Jr.	Dir. Bartolome J. Sinocruz, Jr.
F. Packing & Shipping	Comm. Virgilio O. Garcillano	Dir. Lamberto Pinpin
G. Transportation & Communication	Comm. Mehol K. Sadain	Dir. Lamberto P. Llamas
H. Absentee Voting Local	Comm. Florentino A. Tuason, Jr.	Atty. Betty B. Pizaña

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission on Elections by the power vested in it by the Constitution and other election laws **RESOLVES** to reactivate the aforementioned Election Working committees, and create the Monitoring and Coordination Committee, with new Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen on account of the retirement of two Commissioners and two Directors, designating the Executve Officers of the Committees, and hereby promulgate the following duties and functions of these Committees:

SECTION 1. ***Election Working Committee –***

	WORKING COMMITTEES	CIC CHAIRMAN	VICE-CHAIRMAN	EXECUTIVE OFFICER / SUPERVISOR
A.	Allocation	Comm. Romeo A. Brawner	Dir. Ester L. Villaflor-Roxas	Actg. Dir. III Celia Romero
B.	Printing	Comm. Resurreccion Z. Borra Accountable Forms Non Accountable Forms	DEDA Estrella P. De Mesa Dir. Esmeralda A. Ladra	Dulce C. Sagles Planning Officer V Marlyn P. Casitas
C.	Reception & Verification	Comm. Florentino A. Tuason, Jr.	Dir. Bartolome J. Sinocruz, Jr.	Dir. III Fe. G. Campos
D.	Packing & Shipping	Comm. Rene V. Sarmiento	Dir. Julio Thaddeus P. Hernan	Adm. Officer V Antonio Santella
E.	Media & Information	Chairman Benjamin S. Abalos	Dir. James B. Jimenez	Actg. Dir. III Sonia P. Tiongson
F.	Firearms & Security Personnel (Gun Ban)	Comm. Nicodemo T. Ferrer	Dir. Alioden D. Dalaig	Actg. Dir. III Wynne Asdala
G.	Transportation & Communication	Comm. Nicodemo T. Ferrer	DEDO Jose M. Tolentino, Jr.	
H.	Absentee Voting Overseas and Local	Comm. Florentino A. Tuason, Jr.	Exec. Dir. Pio Jose S. Joson Dir. Betty B. Pizaña	DEDA Estrella P De Mesa Actg. Dir. III Francis Allen Abaya
I.	Monitoring and Coordination	Chairman Benjamin S. Abalos	Exec. Dir. Pio Jose S. Josn	Dir. Divina Blas-Perez IAO Agnes T. Carreon

1. ***SEC. 2. Duties and Responsibilities :*** — The Committees shall have the following duties and functions:

A. COMMITTEE ON ALLOCATION:

1. Estimates the number of registered voters;
2. Computes the estimated number of precincts to function based on the estimated number of registered voters in coordination with the Election and Barangay Affairs Department (EBAD);
3. Computes and submits to the Commission *En Banc* the total quantity requirements for all the forms and supplies needed, except the Official Ballots, Election Returns and Canvassing Forms, based on estimated number of precincts;
   The approved quantity requirements shall serve as the basis by the Bids and Awards Committee in the procurement of supplies and printing of forms.
4. Computes the quantity requirements of official ballots and election returns by city / municipality for use by the Printing Committee based on the data submitted by EBAD on the number of precincts and registered voters (Project of Precincts) submitted by the Election Officer;
5. Prepares the 30 types of packing lists for each city / municipality for use by the Packing Group in the packing of forms and supplies;
6. Checks and verifies the serial numbers, pages and copies of canvassing forms;
7. Sets and packs the canvassing forms;
8. Releases the packing lists to the Packing Group of the Packing and Shipping Committee; and
9. Prepares periodic status report of the committee and submits the same to the Commissioner-in-Charge

B. COMMITTEE ON PRINTING :

1. Submit design of election forms for approval of the Commission *en Banc;*
2. Send notices to political parties to observe on twenty four-hour basis the installation of the dandy roll in the paper mill, the manufacture of security paper, the printing of official ballots and election returns and non-accountable forms;
3. Advise and coordinate with political parties / candidates, NGOs and Comelec civic arm on the 24 hours watch of the process of printing activities;
4. Proof read and approve the final proof of the forms to be printed;
5. Supervise the printing of accountable and non-accountable forms;
6. Coordinate with the organic security force of the Commission and the AFP/PNP assigned to the Commission in maintaining a twenty-four hour basis absolute security of the area of the printing establishment to absolutely ensure that no security paper for accountable forms or any Official Ballots, Election Returns, Statement of Votes and Certificate of Canvass and Proclamation, or part thereof shall be issued to or taken out by any person(s) except by Resolution of the Commission En Banc;
7. Submit weekly report of completely printed accountable / non-accountable forms to the Chairman of the Committee on Monitoring and Coordination;
8. Prepare certification on data of quantity of official ballots and election returns printed; and
9. Submit final report of printing activities and costs to the Commission *en Banc;*

C. COMMITTEE ON RECEPTION AND VERIFICATION:

C.1 Receiving Unit

1. Receive/accept deliveries of election forms, supplies, materials and paraphernalia subject to verification by the verifying unit;
2. See to it that the quantity of the deliveries is in accordance with the specifications;
3. Notify the Resident Auditor on the deliveries;
4. Prepare daily and final reports on, among others, the quantity and date of receipt of election forms, supplies, materials and paraphernalia
5. Release forms, supplies and paraphernalia to verifying unit;
6. Forward Inspection and Acceptance Report, supporting POs, JOs, delivery Receipts and other related documents to Procurement Unit for preparation of the disbursement voucher for payment of items delivered;
7. Forward voucher to the FSD for processing and payment; and
8. Submit periodic and final report on the activities, significant findings and remedial measures instituted/implemented to meet the schedules of the 14 May 2007 elections key activities.

C.2 Verifying Unit

1. Make certain that:
   - the election forms, supplies and paraphernalia are in accordance with specifications
   - serial numbers are the same on the upper and lower portions of the official ballots and on all pages of the election returns (ER), statement of votes (SOV) and certificate of canvass (COC)
   - the number of sheets of ballots per pad is correct
   - the number of copies and pages of the ER, SOV and COC is correct
   - the printing of the forms and other materials is clear, correct and legible
2. Verify correctness as to quantity of delivered forms, materials and paraphernalia;
3. See to it that rejected forms, supplies, materials, and paraphernalia are immediately replaced;
4. Forward to releasing unit, verified forms, supplies, materials and paraphernalia; and
5. Prepare and submit to the Pre-Qualification Bid and Evaluation Committee the Inspection and Acceptance Report.

C.3 Releasing Unit

1. Deliver under proper receipt, to the Packing and Shipping Committee, the verified forms, supplies, materials and paraphernalia.
2. Submit weekly and final report on the activities, significant findings and remedial measures instituted/implemented to the Chairman of the Committee on Monitoring Coordination the schedules of the 14 May 2007 elections key activities.

D. COMMITTEE ON PACKING AND SHIPPING:

1. Receive packing lists from the Allocation Committee for use as basis for packing and shipment;
2. Receive election forms supplies, materials and paraphernalia from the Reception Committee;
3. Allocate, pack and address the forms, supplies, materials and paraphernalia by municipality/ city;
4. Prepare a Bill of Lading for allocations covering single shipments/deliveries to one consignee Election Official/Treasurer of a province/region;
5. Ship through forwarders, airlines and shipping lines, the forms, supplies, materials and paraphernalia to the Provincial and City Treasurers in coordination with Provincial Election Supervisors and City Election Officers (EO) concerned;
6. Cause the personal delivery in priority areas of forms, supplies, materials and paraphernalia direct to the Municipal Treasurer in coordination with the EO concerned;
7. Assign and dispatch escort and security personnel in delivering all forms in priority areas and accountable forms in non-priority areas;
8. Advice political parties, and field offices of the shipment / delivery of accountable forms;
9. Monitor/Check whether or not COMELEC cargoes are promptly delivered to the field offices;
10. Prepare voucher for forwarding services claims; and
11. Submit weekly and final report to the Chairman of the Committee on Monitoring and Coordination on the activities, significant findings and remedial measures instituted/ implemented to meet the schedules of the 14 May 2007 elections key activities.

E. COMMITTEE ON MEDIA & INFORMATION:

1. Cause the publication of resolutions pertinent to the elections in two (2) leading newspapers of general circulation;
2. Reproduce and disseminate resolutions and other issuances/orders to Comelec field personnel, deputized agencies, citizens arms, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) political parties/coalition of political parties/candidates/parties/coalition/organizations/parties participating in the party list system and the general public;
3. Prepare Media Information Kits;
4. Design, prepare and develop informative materials such as primers, posters/leaflets, media advisories/taglines/messages and radio and TV plugs and monitor its dissemination;
5. Issue periodic press releases or statements / announcements of the Commission;
6. Arrange press briefings to be presided by the Chairman, Commissioners and/or authorized Comelec directors;
7. Manage a system of equal allocation of "Comelec Time" on radio and television and "Comelec Space" in print to candidates;
8. Organize a "Speakers Bureau" to arrange for the guestings and interviews of the Chairman / Commissioners / Directors on TV and radio;
9. Recommend accreditation of members of tri-media (local and foreign) as well as foreign observers who will cover the elections and issue corresponding media pass;
10. Reactivate and manage the "Hotline" to answer queries and clarifications from the general public, provide immediate responses to problems and facilitate the dissemination of election related news from various sources;
11. Organize Monitoring Teams in the EID for print, radio and TV to support the Central Monitoring and Action Center set up on election day;
12. Arrange with Intramuros Administration for the setting-up of microwaves facilities within its premises to hook up radio and TV networks in the Media and Information Center at the Comelec Central Office for live transmission of news on election day;
13. Set up a Media Center during the National Canvassing at the Canvassing Center; and
14. Submit weekly and final report to the Chairman of the Committee on Monitoring and Coordination on the activities, significant findings and remedial measures instituted / implemented to meet the schedules of the 14 May 2007 elections key activities.

F. COMMITTEE ON FIREARMS AND SECURITY PERSONNEL (GUN BAN)

1. Constitute the Committee in coordination with the AFP and PNP who shall designate their authorized representatives in the Committee;
2. Ensure that all applications for gun ban exemption are properly processed, evaluated and promptly acted upon in accordance with the implementing rules and regulation of the Commission;
3. Maintain a permanent data base of persons and entities, the firearms involved from the government and private sector issued by gun-ban exemptions or authorized with security personnel; and
4. Submit weekly and final report to the Chairman of the Committee on Monitoring and Coordination on the activities, significant findings and remedial measures instituted / implemented to meet the schedules of the 14 May 2007 elections key activities.

G. COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION:

1. Maintain a pool of motor vehicles composed of organic and deputized agency's motor vehicles, for operational and administrative mobilization;
2. Cause and maintain operational all organic motor vehicles
3. Coordinate with deputized departments and government owned or controlled corporations (GOCCs) assigning their vehicles/drivers and/or providing communications equipment facilities to the Commission;
4. Provide vehicles couriers, escorts and messengers assigned to deliver accountable/non-accountable forms, Resolutions, Orders, Notices and other election documents / materials / paraphernalia;
5. Provide vehicles to the retrieval teams of ballot boxes, election paraphernalia and their escorts, from the airports, piers or canvassing areas, in coordination with Committee on Shipping for personnel for handling and PNP-SAF personnel for security escorts; and
6. Submit weekly and final report to the Chairman of the Committee on Monitoring and Coordination on activities undertaken and motor vehicles / communication equipment in its Pool.

H. COMMITTEE ON ABSENTEE VOTING

H.1 – Overseas

1. Function mandated by Republic Act No. 9189, otherwise known as "The Overseas Absentee Voting Act of 2003 as embodied in Resolution No. 6466 dated 15 December 2003; and
2. Submit weekly and final report to the Chairman of the Committee on Monitoring and Coordination on activities undertaken and motor vehicles / communication equipment in its Pool.

H.2 – Local

1. Functions specified under SECTION 5, Resolution No. 6637 dated 27 February 2004;
2. Submit weekly and final report to the Chairman of the Committee on Monitoring and Coordination on activities undertaken and motor vehicles / communication equipment in its Pool.

I. COMMITTEE ON MONITORING AND COORDINATION:

1. Monitor and coordinate the Working Committees to ensure a concerted and smooth preparatory election activities up to the conduct of elections and completion of National Canvassing;
2. Evaluate periodic reports submitted by the Working Committees to check whether or not their activities are on schedule and recommend / formulate necessary measures for improvement and expeditious actions;
3. Monitor the shipments / deliveries and the actual receipts thereof by the authorized officials-consignees;
4. Receive and promptly act on reports on receipts and shortages in delivered accountable / non-accountable forms, election supplies and materials and paraphernalia; and
5. Monitor compliance of field personnel's election activities through the REDs / AREDs / PES in accordance with the Calendar of Activities;
6. Submit weekly and final report to the Commission En Banc on activities, significant findings and remedial measures instituted / implemented to meet the schedules of the elections key activities that shall ensure an honest, peaceful and credible 14 May 2007 elections.

SEC. 3. ***Affidavit of Undertaking*** – Every COMELEC employee, whether regular, contractual or casual, assigned to an Election Working committee shall be required to sign an Affidavit of Undertaking and Integrity Document wherein his head of office and/or recommending official to the Committee, shall vouch for the employee's honesty and integrity. Any violation of and/or misrepresentation in this undertaking and commitment shall be strictly and immediately meted with administrative or criminal sanction.

SEC. 4. ***Effectivity*** – The resolution shall take effect on the seventh day following its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

SEC. 5. ***Dissemination*** – The Education and Information department shall cause the publication of this resolution in two (2) newspaper of general circulation and furnish copies hereof to all field offices of the Commission.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS
Chairman

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

ROMEO A. BRAWNER
Commissioner

RENE V. SARMIENTO
Commissioner

NICODEMO T. FERRER
Commissioner

(PDI – August 26, 2006)

Message of Thanks

Lillian Magsino, the wife,
and the family of the late

VICENTE L. MAGSINO, SR., M.D., FPCP, FPCC

who passed away on August 10, 2006

wish to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent cards and flowers, donated to The Good Samaritan of the Mary Mediatrix Medical Center Foundation, attended the religious services, and in countless ways condoled and gave us solace and strength in our bereavement.

Please include "Manong Enteng" in your prayers.

The family of

ANTONIO B. JIMENEZ
"NONO"

- his wife SOCORRO "SOC" BUENAVENTURA
- his siblings NENENG (†), BO and CORATEC, MANNY (†) and ANGIE, CHONA and WILLIE CRUZ, RINA and PIE DAVID, FR. BOBOY SVD, JONI and DR. GERMAN TAN-CARDOSO, and CHARO
- nephews and nieces ROMMEL, FANI and JONATHAN COWLES, DENNIS and REGINA, DADA and TODD BRUCE, COREEN, BENGEL, JAMI, MICHELLE and DIEGO SALCEDO, ROCKY and KIM, CESI and ROB FINK, RICO, ALAN, PIEPIE, MIYA, CARLO, CHARM, CRISSY and ERNIE (†)
- his father-in-law VENERANDO BUENAVENTURA, brothers- and sisters-in-law and nephews and nieces

wish to thank everyone who condoled with us in our time of grief. Your prayers, presence, messages of support, flowers and food provided great solace and comfort, telling us how much you loved Nono and how much you will miss him, as we will, too.

Maraming Salamat!

FRANCISCO "QUITO" FERNANDEZ ZALAMEA

1929 – 2006

Born in Pagsanjan, Laguna, **QUITO**, a first generation Fil-Am leader, was a founding father of Victorians-USA. A former Commander of Victoria, Laguna's Knights of Rizal, respected for his ethics, integrity and deep religious conviction, dedicated his life to the service of the community. Died on August 23, 2006. He was 77 years old.

Survived by his wife, **Narcisa**, children and granddaughters.

Interment will be on August 26, 2006 at the Garden of Angels Memorial Park after the 1:30 p.m. Mass at the La Resurreccion Parish Church, Victoria, Laguna.

RODOLFO "Steve" R. VICTORIA

Retiree of United Laboratories, Inc.

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 25, 2006 at the age of 74.

His body lies in state at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

ELINO "LINO" V. SAUSA

Retiree of United Laboratories, Inc.

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 24, 2006 at the age of 81.

His body lies in state at Areflor Funeral Homes, Pembo, Makati City.

Interment will be announced later.

Ill. ERNESTO H. MALABANAN

1919 – 2006

Physician, Socio-Civic Leader, Soldier, and a Freemason

Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 87.

His bereaved wife, **Simplicia**; children **Maria Susan** (†) and **Charlie Lasa**, **Sheila Rosalia** and **Kaymen Keh**, **Ernesto Jr.** and **Bamba Angeles**, **Emmanuel**, **Edgar Antonio** and **Bella Gomez**, and **Edwin** and **Ethel Andico**; grandchildren, immediate family members and friends humbly request the pious readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at the family residence at 30 Hilltop, Batangas City.

Interment will be at 12:00 high noon on Sunday, August 27, 2006 at the Batangas City Catholic Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please send aid to the Malabanan Scholarship Fund, Lazaro Malabanan Memorial Lodge of Perfection, #13 P. Burgos Street, Batangas City.

NINE YEARS AGO TODAY
Our Dearly Beloved

ATTY. TITUS C. VILLANUEVA, JR.

January 20, 1964 - August 26, 1997

was called by the Lord to start a new life in heaven and so we again commemorate today that new life.

We, his loving wife **Nancy Grace**; children **Titus III**, **Marius Paul**, **Bianca Grace**; parents **Titus Sr.** and **Teresita**; brothers, sisters and spouses **Linus** and **Ritchie**, **Marcus** and **Ana**, **Remus**, **Zeus** and **Celia**, **Anna Tessa**, **Ma. Vanessa** and **Rookie**, nephews and nieces would like to thank other relatives and friends who blessed him with love and prayers and who continue to keep his memory close to their hearts.

"For me to live is Christ and to to die is gain"

In peace I shall both lie down and sleep, For you alone, Lord, make me secure. Psalm 4:9

OUR DEARLY BELOVED

CONCHITA TOPACIO RAMOS

Peacefully joined our Creator on August 24, 2006 at the age of 91.

Her late husband Catalino Sr. (†); loving children Ben, Rafael & Carol, Catalino Jr. & Helen, Neny (†) & Philip Judan, Philip & Corito; grandchildren, great-grandchildren & other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Chapel Jacinto, La Funeraria Paz, Sucat.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 27, 2006 after the 3:00 P.M. Mass at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Scholarship Ministry of Mary Help of Christians (MHC) Parish, Better Living Subd., Parañaque will be highly appreciated.

EDUARDO "EGAY" R. LACBAY

Now peacefully rests in the infinite grace of our Lord at the age of 53.

He is survived by his loving wife, **Gloria**; children, **Sheryll Grace** and **Mary Grace**; and grandson, **Samuel**.

His remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Luna Chapel, Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

There will be a Mass today, 26 August 2006 at 6:00 pm.

His body will be transferred to Lumban, Laguna tomorrow morning, 27 August 2006.

Interment will be on Tuesday, 29 August 2006 in Lumban, Laguna.

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More Classified Ads:

National Transmission Corp. (Transco) & Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) on Page A18

Bangko Sentral (BSP), Public Estate Authority (PEA) and Landbank on Page A19

CLASSIFIEDS

JPMAP @ 10

THE JUNIOR PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT Association of the Philippines (JPMAP) is an association of students from different schools and universities nationwide. It is guided by the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) which is the organization of human resource managers and practitioners from the top 1000 corporations in the country. JPMAP aims to empower its members from the various schools nationwide in developing leaders of society.

It will hold its 8th Annual General Membership Meeting on Aug. 27, Sunday, 3–8 p.m. at Casa Marinero, Intramuros, Manila, with the theme "Bridging Gaps Towards Understanding Human Resource Excellence". This GMM is open to all college students.

The event is a conference about the true essence, and importance of understanding people management; its functions in the interrelation and transformation of the corporate world, and managing lives efficiently and effectively in the 21st century. It ends with a party, dancing the night away.

Lawyer Emerico O. de Guzman, FPM, PMAP President, is the keynote speaker.

Learn to be a change-leader in developing and inspiring lives.

For more information, please contact: Richard Carlo Melendres (San Beda College) - 09192174842/Gino Ramos (San Beda College) – 09163165249/James Tancioco (Far Eastern University) – 09179253172; Agnes/Yvette of PMAP–726-1532/81/88.

Home Guaranty Corporation

NOTICE OF SALE

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) is offering for sale, on "as-is" basis, either in Cash or Installment, an acquired asset described below:

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION / TYPE	LOCATION	NO. OF UNITS/ FLOOR AREA	MINIMUM BID
BUILDING #31 : Five (5) storey unfinished Medium-Rise Building (MRB)	GUADALUPE BLISS PHASE IV J. P. Rizal St., Guadalupe, Makati City	20 units or 4 units per floor Floor Area per unit : 67.2 sqm.	P 18,000,000.00

General Guidelines:

1. The sale of the property shall be on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" and "BULK SALE" basis.
2. A bidder's bond equivalent to 10% of the total bid price in the form of cash or certified manager's check payable to HGC will be required of all prospective bidders. The manager's check should have a validity period of 120 days from opening of bids.
3. All proposals shall be submitted on or before September 29, 2006, Friday, at 2:00 p.m.
4. All bidders may offer to buy the property in cash or installment term. Only cash purchase shall be entitled to discounts.
5. Terms of Payment:
   5.1 For CASH SALE, the following discount rates apply:
      1. 15%, spot cash
      2. 10%, if paid in full within 30 days from signing of sales documents
      3. 6%, if paid in full within 60 days from signing of sales documents
      4. 3% , if paid in full within 90 days from signing of sales documents
   5.2 For INSTALLMENT SALE (discounts are not applicable):
      5. 20% minimum down payment
      6. Balance payable in equal monthly installments over a maximum term of five (5) years. The benchmark interest rate to be charged by HGC shall be based on the Bloomberg Mart Rate of government securities of similar term as of the date of HGC's receipt of purchase proposal.
6. Bidding documents can be secured from the Project Management and Acquired Assets Disposition Group of the HGC at the 4th Floor, # 335 Jade Building, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00).**
7. Sealed bids must be received on or before September 29, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. and should be dropped in the designated Bid Box located at the 4th Floor Lobby of the HGC Office. Bids submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.
8. All bidders are enjoined to inspect the property before tendering their bids.

For inquiries, please call Ruth E. Bañares/Luisa E. Cabrera at telephone nos. 897-32-86 & 897-32-90 or visit our office at #335 Jade Building , Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFER AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL P. DELOS SANTOS**
Officer-In-Charge
Project Management & Acquired
Assets Disposition Group

(PDI–Aug. 26 & Sept 2, 2006)

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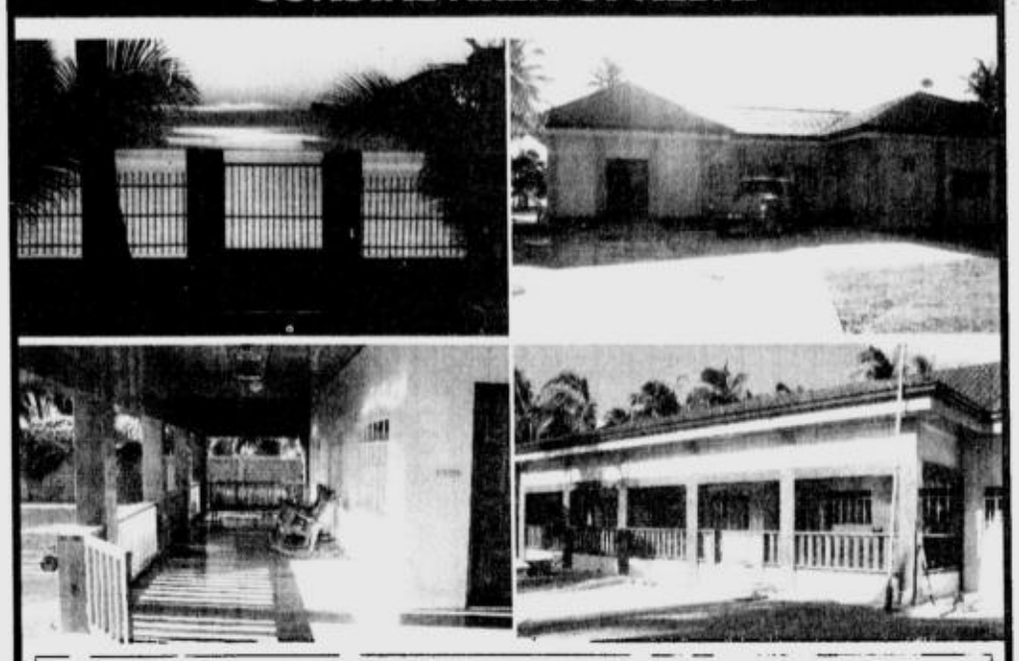

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Email: **recruitment_sii@yahoo.com.ph**
Pls. look for Ms. Cora Fermin

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- *Goal/Results-oriented*
- *Must be a Team Player*
- *Computer skills familiar with MS Excel and Word*
- *Professional Relationship Skills*
- *Medical Graduate and/or Practicing Physicians preferred*

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or email us at **abogado_arcinas@yahoo.com**

NOTICE

This is to inform the Public that **Mid-South Ship and Crew Management Inc.**, a corporation duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and with business address at 2455 Gen. Belamino St., Bangkal, Makati City is applying for License at the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration. The followng are its Officers and Incorporators:

NESTOR S. ILANO	President
CYRIL S. ILANO	Director
GENOVEVA S. ATIENZA	Corporate Secretary
MELINETTE S. ILANO	Corporate Treasurer
ABRAHAM S FRANCISCO	Director

This ad is in compliance with the POEA.

(PDI- August 26 2006)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby served upon the public that the intestate state of the late JOSE RIZAL M. FERNANDO of 2243 G. del Pilar St. Singalong, Manila consisting of Thirteen (13) parcels of land, have been extrajudicially settled by his sole and only heir ENGRACIA DOLORES TOLENTINO represented by SUSAN T. CLASIO, by way of a public instrument denominated as Affidavit of Self-Adjudication, duly executed and as Acknowledged before Notary Public Nyorito P. Galvan and entered in the Notarial Register as Doc. No. 397, Page No. 81, Book No. 1, Series of 2006.

(PDI–Aug. 26, Sept. 2 & 9, 2006)

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Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(DND-Proper Procurement of Goods)

I. The Department of National Defense, through DND-Proper Bid and Awards Committee, invites suppliers/manufacturers/ distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

Various Supplies/Materials

Name of Project	Description	Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)
A. Office Supplies	Assorted Office Supplies for OSND	PhP 891,394.75
B. Computer Supplies	Assorted Computer Supplies for OSND	523,786.40
C. Other Supplies	Loyalty Ring for OSND Personnel	385,200.00
D. ICT Spare Parts	Assorted ICT Spare Parts for OSND	1,491,098.50
E. Janitorial Supplies	Assorted Janitorial Supplies for OSND	526,969.07
F. Construction Supplies and Materials	Assorted Construction Supplies for OSND	533,960.11
G. Vehicle Spare Parts	Assorted Vehicle Spare Parts for OSND	2,307,875.70
H. Aircon Supplies	Assorted Aircon Supplies for OSND	665,078.94
I. Subscription of Periodicals	Assorted Foreign Magazines and Local Newspapers	1,177,000.00
	TOTAL	PhP 8,502,383.30

II. The schedule of activities are as follows.

ACTIVITIES	VENUE	DATE	TIME
Issuance of Bid Documents	Procurement Branch, OAS Bldg. DND	14 August 2006 to 08 September 2006	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Pre-Bid Conference	OASA Old Conference Room, Basement, DND Bldg.	28 August 2006	9:30 AM
Deadline for Submission/ Opening of Bids	OASA Old Conference Room, Basement, DND Bldg.	08 September 2006	9:30 AM
Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. 9184 dated 10 January 2003		
Post-Qualification			
Issuance of Notice of Award			

III. Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount as indicated below to the DND-Proper BAC Secretariat, Procurement Branch, Office of Administrative Services, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Tel. No. 911-8118:

	PROJECT	COST OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS
A.	Office Supplies	PhP 900.00
B.	Computer Supplies	500.00
C.	Other Supplies	400.00
D.	ICT Spare Parts	1,500.00
E.	Janitorial Supplies	500.00
F.	Construction Supplies and Materials	500.00
G.	Vehicle Spare Parts	2,300.00
H.	Aircon Supplies	700.00
I.	Subscription of Periodicals	1,200.00

IV. The eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part-A (IRR-A).

V. To facilitate eligibility checking, manufacturers and/or suppliers who wish to participate in the public bidding may apply for registration with the DND-Proper BAC Secretariat at least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids for the procurement projects they wish to participate.

VI. The OSND assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

VII. The OSND reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality and award the Contract to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the government as evaluated by the DND-Proper Bids and Awards Committee (DND-Proper BAC)

VIII. The Invitation is also posted in the DBM Procurement Service website at www.procurementservice.org., and the DND website, in accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184. Further, it shall also be posted at conspicuous places in the premises of the Department of National Defense (DND).

(Sgd.) ASSISTANT SECRETARY RUBEN F CIRON
Chairman, DND-Proper BAC

(PDI - Aug. 26, 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office No. VIII
Pawing, Palo, Leyte
Tel. Nos. (053) 323-3084, 323-3075 • Fax No. 053-323-3061

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PLASTIC CONTAINERS FOR NFA REGION VIII

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA), through its Corporate Budget for 2006 intends to apply the sum of SIX MILLION ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY PESOS (P6,001,380.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the procurement contract of Plastic Containers intended for the Food for School Program of NFA-DepEd and DSWD in Region VIII for school year 2006-2007. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The NFA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders to supply the required Plastic Containers of NFA Region VIII with the following information and specifications:

Size 6 ¾ x 10 x 15mm
Capacity 1kg

Initial delivery of the GOODS is required within Ten (10) calendar days upon receipt of Notice to Proceed and the balance can be made on a staggered basis. Summary of quantity and total amount of ABC follows:

Lot No.	NFA Prov Office	QUANTITY (More or Less)	UNIT	ABC Per Unit	Total Amount of ABC (More or Less)
1	N Leyte	1,741,000	Piece	P 0.66	P 1,149,060.00
2	S Leyte	1,586,000	Piece	0.66	1,046,760.00
3	W Samar	1,864,000	Piece	0.66	1,230,240.00
4	N Samar	2,204,000	Piece	0.66	1,454,640.00
5	E Samar	1,698,000	Piece	0.66	1,120,680.00
	TOTAL	9,093,000			P 6,001,380.00

The bidders may bid for as many lots as he/she is interested.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary pass/ fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act."

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NFA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), Secretariat, NFA Regional Office No. 8, Pawing, Palo, Leyte.

A complete set of Bidding Documents can be obtained by interested Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable Bidding fee of P1,000.00 in cash per Lot.

The Bidding Schedule is as follows

	Date	Venue
Issuance of Bid Documents	Aug. 30 to Sept. 8, 2006 (8:00 am-5:00 pm)	NFA RO8, Pawing, Palo, Leyte
Pre-Bidding Conference	Sept. 12, 2006 (9:30 am)	NFA Conf. Rm. Pawing, Palo, Leyte
Submission & Opening of Bids	Sept. 25, 2006 (9:30 am)	–do–

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered during the bid opening and must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be bid in the following schedule and form or any combination thereof:

Cash or Cashier's Check or Manager's Check (Cashier's or Manager's Check payable to NFA issued by a reputable commercial bank issued in Tacloban City	1% of ABC
Surety Bond issued by GSIS marked "Callable on Demand"	2.5% of ABC

The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any formality/informality of the bids, received and to accept only such Bids which are advantageous to the National Food Authority.

The NFA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders, for any expense incurred in the preparation of bid documents.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO J. ADORABLE
Asst. Regional Manager/
Chairman-RBAC, NFA RO8

(PDI–August 26 & Sept. 1, 2006)

MARK SECURITIES CORPORATION

150 Jupiter St., Bel-Air Village
Makati City

NOTICE

The public is hereby notified that the Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc. has approved the application of **MARK SECURITIES CORP.** for the sale of its trading right of the Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc.

All interested parties are given 30 days from the date of this publication to make known its interests on the sale to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc., PSE Centre, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City: Attention: Office of the General Counsel.

(PDI--Aug. 26, 2006)

BUSINESS

RP exporters urged to carve place in UK market

Philippine trade fairs in Britain certain to create a stir, says expert

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PHILIPPINE FOOD EXPORTERS ARE BEING urged to put more effort in penetrating the United Kingdom, as food consumption patterns among the British becomes globalized, according to a UK-based buying expert.

Nicholas Orledge, a supplies acquisition consultant for UK clients, said consumption of exotic foods was also growing in the islands, which has seen a rise in immigrant population.

Orledge previously worked as a senior buyer for Tesco, the UK's international supermarket chain and the largest British retailer both in terms of global sales and domestic market share.

He said Philippine food producers would surely gain the attention of British consumers by arranging trade fairs in the United Kingdom, creating promotional materials, and following British food standards.

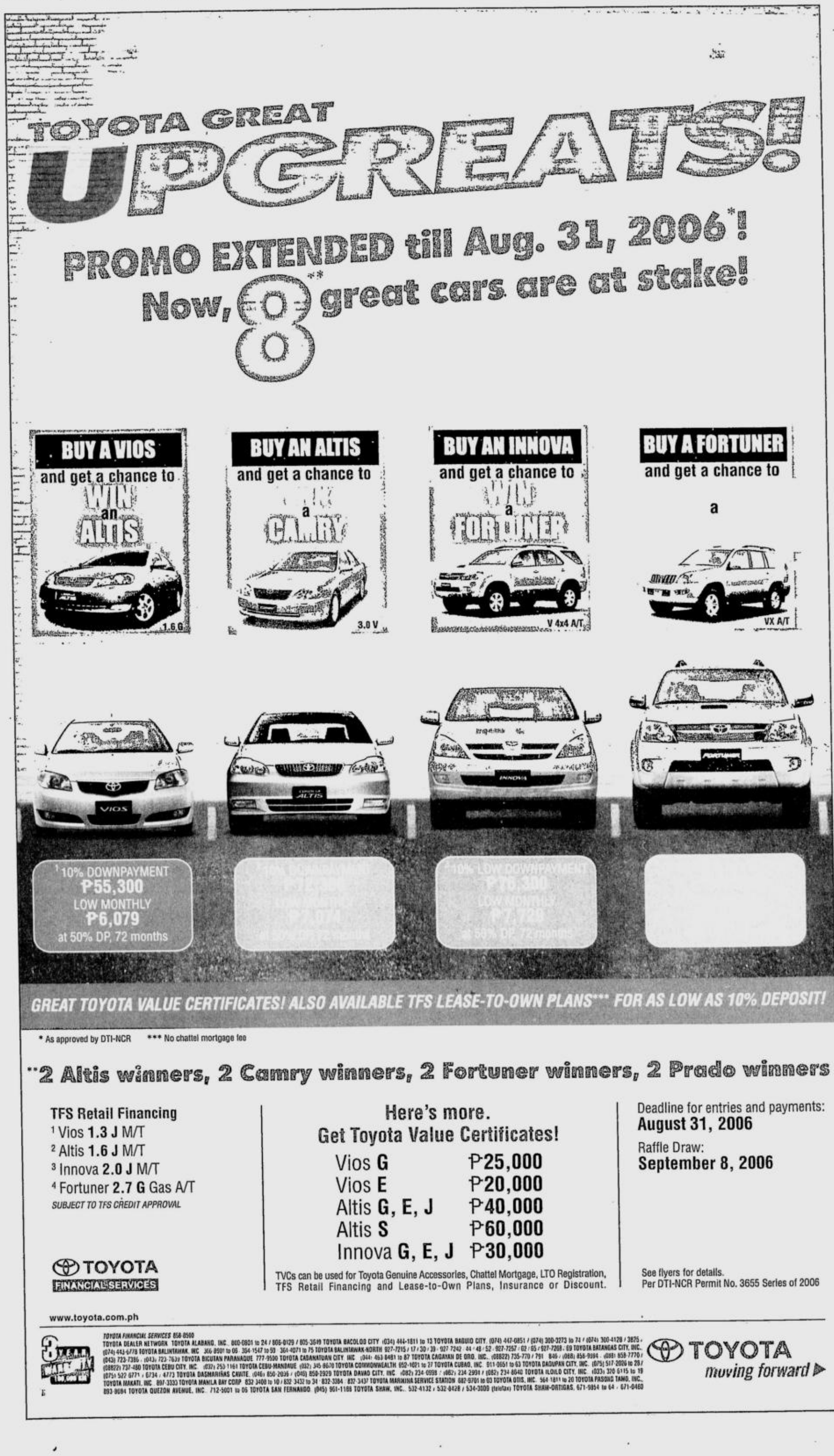
Orledge added that since Britons are very concerned when it comes to food ethical issues, Filipino manufacturers should comply with the strict UK regulations in order to gain deals.

The expert recently visited the Philippines as guest speaker at the IFEX Symposium Series organized by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions and the Brand Management Team.

Orledge advised local food manufacturers who wish to break into the UK market that they should provide in the label data such as lists of ingredients and allergens; indicating production methods, origin, risk, and nutrition factors.

Last month, Citem reported that foreign buyers snapped up supplies of Filipino ethnic food such as saluyot, laing, pinangat, pili and polvoron at the yearly IFEX Philippines held last May.

EXOTIC food products, such as chips made of bananas, apples and tubers, are making headway in the British market.



Aboitiz power unit eyes Mirant assets

ABOITIZ EQUITY VENTURES INC. PLANS TO participate in the auction of Mirant Philippines Corp.'s assets, but it says it will be difficult to bid for all the assets if sold as one package.

In an interview Thursday evening, AEV executive vice president and chief operating officer Erramon Aboitiz said the company had been doing some number crunching with regard to the Mirant assets, but a final decision to join the bidding had yet to be made.

"We've been looking at it, running the numbers. All the assets are good. But if (they're going to be sold as) one whole package, it's going to be very difficult for us to participate as we also have other projects to finance," he said.

Asked if the company would be more inclined to participate in the auction if the assets would be sold in pieces, Aboitiz said: "We're open to the possibility."

Mirant announced early last month that it would be selling its Philippine and Carribean business units as part of plans to focus on its home business and enhance shareholder value following its emergence from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection just last January.

These sales were expected to close by mid-2007, the company had earlier said.

An industry source revealed that among those that had already expressed interest in participating in the Mirant Philippines auction were AIG; OneEnergy Ltd., a 50-50 joint venture between Hong Kong's CLP Holdings Ltd. and Japan's Mitsubishi Corp.; Korea Electric Power Corp.; Tokyo Electric Power Co. and Kyushu Electric Power Co. Inc.

Local firms Ayala group and Metro Pacific Corp. are also keen on acquiring Mirant assets.

Mirant currently owns and operates the 1,200-megawatt (MW) Sual and the 735-MW Pagbilao coal-fired power plants in Pangasinan and Quezon, respectively.

Japan firms may put up biodiesel facility in RP

By Christine A. Gaylican

TWO JAPANESE FIRMS, MITSUI AND CO. LTD. and Toyo Engineering Corp. (TEC), are expected to join forces to put up an integrated coco-biodiesel facility in the country, according to an official of the Philippine Coconut Authority.

Officers of Mitsui, which has a separate food manufacturing business and retail subsidiary in Japan, have signified their intent to conduct a feasibility study on the project that was initiated by TEC, according to PCA Deputy Administrator Carlos Carpio.

"What [Mitsui] wants is to finance a feasibility study to make sure the project is viable," Carpio said in an interview.

The PCA earlier estimated that investing in an integrated biodiesel facility in the country—starting off with the planting of coconuts on a project site measuring over 600,000 hectares—could cost P10,000 to as much as P50,000 per hectare, depending on the terrain.

The facility is meant to insure Japan's long-term bio-diesel requirement.

"It's something very serious," PCA Oscar G. Garin said in a press briefing. "They want to start on their own and want to put it up in areas where there are little coconuts. They want it in Ilocos because of [the region's] political stability."

A team from TEC has been in the Philippines to identify sites for coconut planting.

Japan has shifted to using a 5 percent biodiesel mix for its fuel as part of an effort to use efficient and environment-friendly fuel which TEC hopes to source entirely, if possible, from the Philippines.

The coconut plantation may extend from Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte to nearby provinces such as Pangasinan and La Union.

Japan, through the Kyoto Protocol, has taken the initiative to eliminate the emission of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide.

"No Fat" is No Good

Contrary to popular belief, fat isn't all that bad. In fact, the human body also needs a certain amount of fat to be healthy. However, fat has gotten a bad rap because most people are preoccupied with a lean and sexy body image.

To set the record straight, here are some of the functions of fat that are beneficial to the body: It insulates and cushions internal organs, produces skin and body oils to lubricate joints and muscles, provides a concentrated source of energy for current use and stores it for future use.

Fat also helps repair damaged tissue and fight infections, and has a regulating function in forming hormones. It is likewise responsible for transporting fat-soluble vitamins to other parts of the body.

Highs and Lows of Cholesterol. But while fat is a necessary part of a healthy diet, too much fat in the blood may overload the body. This can be traced to saturated animal fats from red meat and dairy products. Trans fats or hydrogenated oils from commercially-prepared baked goods is another culprit.

Excess cholesterol is harmful because it gets deposited in the arteries as plaque. To prevent clogged arteries, the diet should have less than 35 percent total fat with less than 7 percent saturated fat and minimal trans fat.

To remove surplus fat from the blood and prevent plaque build-up, your diet should have more of the "good" cholesterol or smaller high-density lipoproteins (HDL), than the "bad" cholesterol or low-density lipoproteins (LDL) which are bigger and take up more space in the blood vessels.

An easy way to figure out which is "bad" and which is "good" is to remember: "Keep LDL low and HDL high by eating fruits, vegetables, whole grains, beans and nuts."

Essential Fats for Good Health. Some types of fats necessary for a healthy diet include polyunsaturated fats (PUFA) and monounsaturated fat (MUFA). Omega 6 is classified as a PUFA and can found in seafood particularly salmon, sardines, herring and mackerel. Omega 3 is another PUFA, and is present in soybean, wheat germ, rice bran, walnuts and canola oil.

Nuts, olive oil and other vegetable oils are categorized as good fats. They help cut cholesterol and decrease the risk of coronary heart disease. This is shown by the longer life span among people living in the Mediterranean region who apply liberal amounts of olive oil in their cooking.

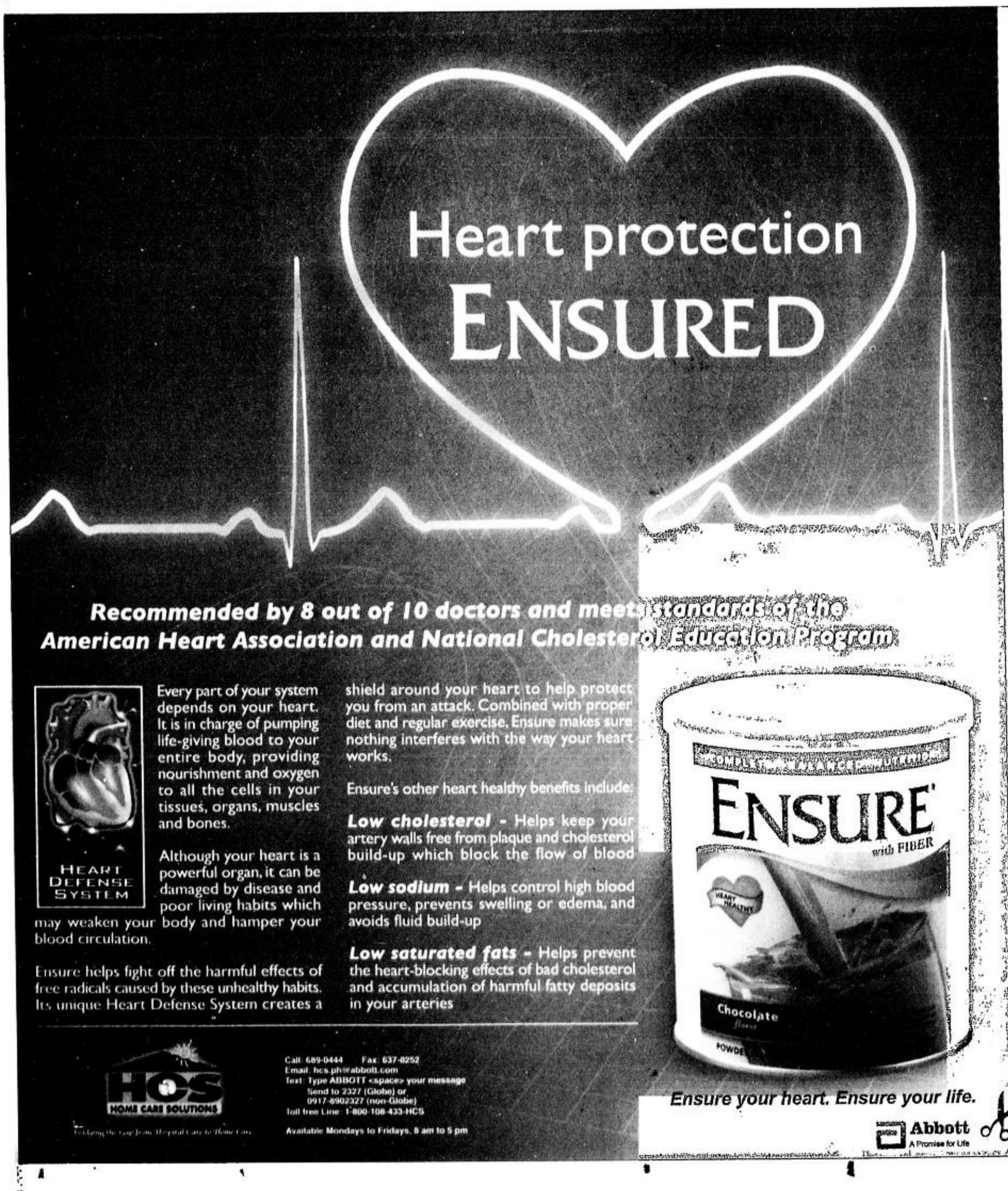
Heart-healthy Adult Nutrition. To help you protect your heart, take a glass of **Ensure** daily. **Ensure** is especially formulated with a heart-healthy fat blend that meets the dietary fat recommended by the American Heart Association and the National Cholesterol Education Program. It is rich in mono- and polyunsaturated fatty acids and good fats which have been proven in numerous studies to have beneficial effects on the body's lipid profile.

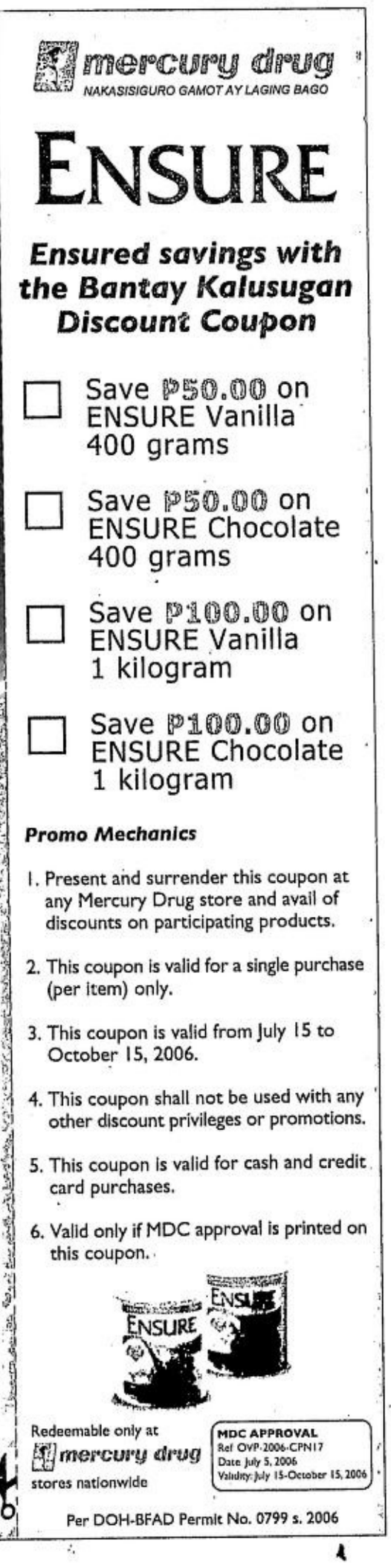
A product of Abbott Laboratories' world-class nutrition research facilities, **Ensure** is also low in sodium and contains plenty of antioxidants that help keep heart tissue cells away from damage caused by free radicals. Use Ensure as a nutritional supplement, a meal replacement, or as a sole source of nutrition when unable to eat solid food.

Ensure your heart, ensure your life.

Call us at our Home Care Solutions for your free nutrition counseling at tel. no. 689-0444 or toll free line: 1-800-108-433-HCS; Text: Type ABBOTT <space> your message. Send to 2327 (Globe) or 0917-890-2327 (non-Globe).

Ensure is available in major drugstores and supermarkets nationwide.





PHILIPPINE

Mel Guevara

Editor in chief, Metro

The thing about fashion is... it's very fickle—the trends change at such a fast pace that it becomes difficult for the ordinary consumer to keep up with them. That's why at Metro, we try to incorporate trendy pieces with classics—being stylish after all, isn't about wearing a trend from head to toe, it's about learning how to mix them with pieces you already own.

Most people think fashion is... superficial. But it actually goes beyond skin deep. Fashion and beauty have a psychological aspect as well, if you know that you look good, you feel good and therefore perform and achieve better.

This month's issue is all about... diets—we share one woman's story of extreme weight loss and we divulge the diet that works. For fashion, we show new ways to wear wide-leg trousers and cropped jackets.

This season is all about... Dark colors with a focus on bold shapes and construction. For accessories patent and oversized bags. Proportion is key if you go for volume on top, balance it with a slim skirt or pants and vise versa if you opt for wide-leg trousers or voluminous skirts.

Covering up... **is the new...** sexy.

If someone from my magazine would write a tell-all about me, I would... be flattered but ignore it at the same time—just imagine how boring it will be. Haha!

Everything I learned about fashion I learned from... my mom, designer Auggie Cordero, my boss Thelma San Juan and from years of poring over magazines and books.

The most impossible thing I've done for my magazine is... coming up with the biggest body calendar issues (Dec-Jan 2005-2006). It took the team exactly eight days to shoot 21 personalities when we normally just shoot the usual 12.

Everybody wants to be like us because... of the perks—it's great to get to travel and get free goodies but working in a magazine IS serious work. Far beyond the glamour of attending parties and events, working in a magazine is like doing a juggling act. Unlike Vogue that probably keeps a hundred people on its staff, the Metro staff is just about a tenth of that. You have to be prepared to work weekends and do all-nighters to meet deadlines. The partying only comes after we've put an issue to bed.

For me, the devil wears... definitely couture.

My contribution to the industry is... giving readers an alternative to retail by promoting local designers and specialty stores that carry one-of-a-kind vintage items and accessories.

Pauline Suaco-Juan

FRONT ROW'S NEW FRONTIER

'Everyone wants to be like them'

BEYOND THE SEASON'S DISpensable 'IT' girl, disposable supermodels and disappearing fashions are glossies' main girls. Editor in chief to some, talent scouts, mentors, devils, and more to others.

These are the women whose hands dictate the flow of style traffic, whose approval can make or break careers and whose taste dictates popular fashion. In short, these women's wands help create the look of Manila now.

The true test of a fashion event's success these days is that if you get the triumvirate of **Pauline Suaco-Juan, Melanie Cuevas** and **Carla Sibal** to raise their hands when attendance time is checked, then you must be doing something right.

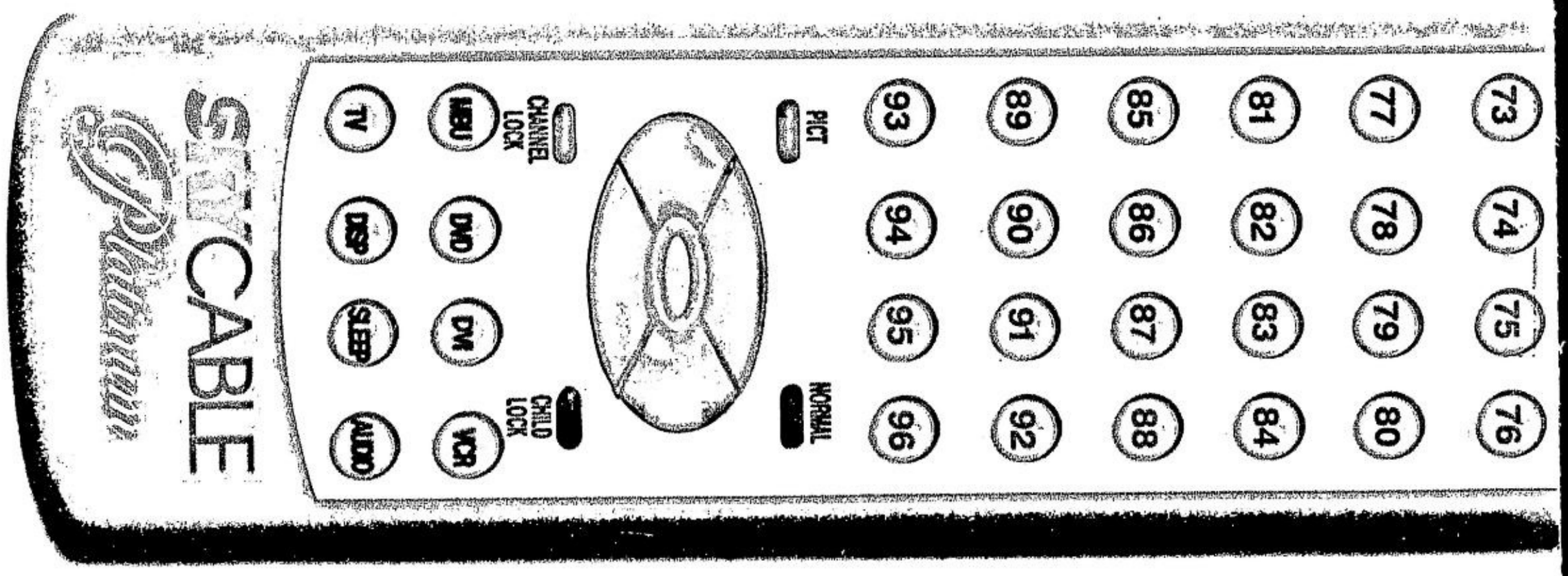
Tim Yap

Fashion's new front row is more polished, less intrique-driven and less tyrannical than their predecessors. Not that the past generation's "devils" didn't inspire a whole era of stylistas. In fact, we would not be where we are without them.

Molding minds

I have personally worked with a handful of iconic characters otherwise known as the "editor." In this case, let's call her "Thelma." She discovered me in the party streets and helped me hone my nose for news (or my version of it.) But unlike Miranda, she never terrorized

EVERYONE/ C4



They're more than just stilettos and expensive dresses, these women serve as ambassadors of the women's movement

Produced by: TIM YAP
Photography: MARK NICDAO
Sittings Editor: DAVID MILAN
Makeup: JOHN PAGADUAN, TINA VILLEGAS, DING ESPINOSA of SHU UEMURA
Hair: EDGAR DOMINGUEZ, ARMEL EVORA and RENATO GOTO of HAIRWORKS SALON
Shot on Location: Makati Shangri-La Hotel
Special thanks to JOY WASSMER and MALU FRANCISCO

Carla Sibal

Editor in chief, Mega

The thing about fashion is... it's

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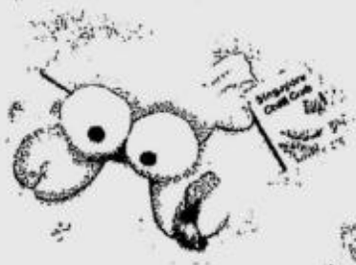

Plus get a chance to win fun prizes like chili crab plus lots of other delicious treats from the Lion City. Yum-po-wii!

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TITLE	ARTIST	MONO	POLY
U Can Dance	U Can Dance Theme	A1 ucandance	A4 ucandance
Pumapatak Ang Ulan	Parokya Ni Edgar	A2 patak	A5 patak
You Are The One	Toni Gonzaga and Sam Milby	A3 urd1	A6 urd1
Hips	Shakira	C1 hips	C4 hips
Sayang	True Faith	C2 sayang	C5 sayang
SOS	Rihanna	C3 sos	C6 sos
Unfaithful	Rihanna	D1 unfaithful	D2 unfaithful
Half Crazy	Freestyle	D1 crazy	D2 crazy
High	Barbie Almalbis	D1 high	D2 high
I Can Love You Easy	Christian Bautista	E1 loveueasy	E4 loveueasy
Dianetic	Pupil	E2 dianetic	E5 dianetic
I Can't Smile Without You	Barry Manilow	E3 cantsmyl	E6 cantsmyl

LOGOS

B1 SHADES B1 KND2 B1 PUFFSTUFF B1 EDD B1 DEXTER

PICTURE MESSAGE

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MMS WALLPAPER

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See flyers for more details. Promo runs from July 9 to September 9, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1848, Series of 2006.

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Dahil sa SMART Tayo

From page C2

me. In fact, she remains to be such a mother to me. I think most editors should be. More than just correcting grammar and handpicking stories, they are responsible for molding creative minds and confident thinkers. They serve as mother hens to three babies—their staff, their publication and their readers.

Leafing through the pages of Metro, Preview and Mega, the country's leading fashion rags, you can sense the disparity and uniqueness in each glossy. They no longer look like each other. And if you get to know these women, you can actually see, hear, smell, listen and touch the visions on which their entire magazines were built on.

Preview champions the way we Pinoys dress with their annual "Best Dressed Ball." Mega celebrates the variety of Filipino beauty with their "Most Beautiful List" while Metro salutes forward fashion via "MetroWear." Each publication has a different advocacy, all under the banner of redefining Pinoy style.

More than just appearing and speaking at these events and signing the editor's note, these women serve as ambassadors of the women's movement may it be in jewel tones, neutrals or animal prints—or feeling victorious after breaking up with your beau, making moves to advance your career and just simply feeling good about yourself.

Tables turned

And how are they able to do that? By working with the best artists, stylists, makeup artists to fulfill your fantasies. It's not just about a life of priority invites and endless freebies. It's also a lot of hard work.

The bonus is these girls know how to have fun! At this Super! shoot, I mindlessly offer the trend-conscious trio some pastries. "Carbs!" Carla looked at the Shangri-la Makati sugar spread with fear. Later, I offered them the only thing that I had with me, coffee candies. And they all gladly took their dose of caffeine. Later, the tables were turned when Super! put the editors in front of the camera. The resulting Super! spread is our tribute to the Mirandas of Manila.

Thank God they're not devils.

EDS NOTE:

Dear Superfriends,

If you are called by fashion, pursue it with an open mind, a generous spirit, and unquenchable passion. Fashion is that rare art form that goes beyond pop culture. If the muse calls you, heed it—you'll be invited into a world that's hyper creative and always exciting. You can only take Philippine fashion forward. Mabuhay! That's all!

–Pauline

Fashion has really become a major force in all our lives. I believe that beneath all its seeming superfluousness, it is a platform we can use to promote our country globally. Needless to say, we are gifted with numerous talented artists which will enable our country to distinguish itself. The future is bright, exciting and full of potential. That's all!

–Carla

Always remember that style begins and ends with the freedom to choose. It's easy to choose when you know your own mind and your own style, but faced with an overwhelming display of choices, it's easy to lose your way. How to get back on track? Take a long, hard look at yourself in the mirror and determine your skin tone, hair texture, face shape and figure, and celebrate your unique good looks rather than chasing after an unrealistic ideal. We're lucky that the billion-dollar fashion and beauty industry now offers every woman unlimited possibilities from the latest fashion to makeup and cosmetic surgery. Each gives us the courage to experiment but it is in understanding these tools that you can learn to work your best and worst features to your advantage. We're here at Metro to guide you through the intricacies of looking your best. After all, every woman has the right to be beautiful and today's ideal is one that is uniquely you, only better. That's all!

–Mel

Or, what would happen if "The Devil Wears Prada" were a Pinoy movie

The Devil wears Prada from Greenhills

IN THE SIZE 0 UNIverse of serious fashion magazines, editors roost on top of the carb-free food chain, designers act as cultural weathervanes, and models, photographers, and stylists turn the bubble-sleeved fantasy into reality. Of course, reality in this case is just the opposite. Glossies-and the billion-dollar industry built around them are not about who you are, but rather, who you can become. And where are the interns in this impossibly snotty mix? Hmmm. They're probably writing books about it.

A roman à clef (a fancy term for a novel describing real-life events behind a façade of fiction) from the POV of the lowly-paid-but-most-highly-perked of them all, Lauren Weisberger's "The Devil Wears Prada" ruffled not a few feather skirts when it first hit the stands in 2004. Some insisted that the main villainess, Miranda Priestly, was based on American Vogue editrix Anna "Nuclear" Wintour; this is a fact that the author quite predictably denied. Boo.

The what ifs

Now a motion picture, the book and its fashion scope have broadened beyond the grasp of a few insiders towards a wider audience. Question is, given fashion's built-in elitism, can this story about a heroine being bullied by her boss then taking on the world on her own terms fly with those unfamiliar with Dior, Rochas, or Chanel? More importantly, will average Pinoys understand a movie with disguised characters? Ah, there lies the fun.

Don't look now, but I'm sure local production studios and television networks are already drooling all over themselves cooking up their own "Prada" derivatives to piggyback the trend. But before they come up with their own hard-sell knock-offs, I want to beat them to it by throwing down my own silly, surreal version. Since fashion is the art of endless referencing, I've peppered this adaptation with way-too-familiar pop culture references to see exactly what would happen if "The Devil Wears Prada" became a major Pinoy movie.

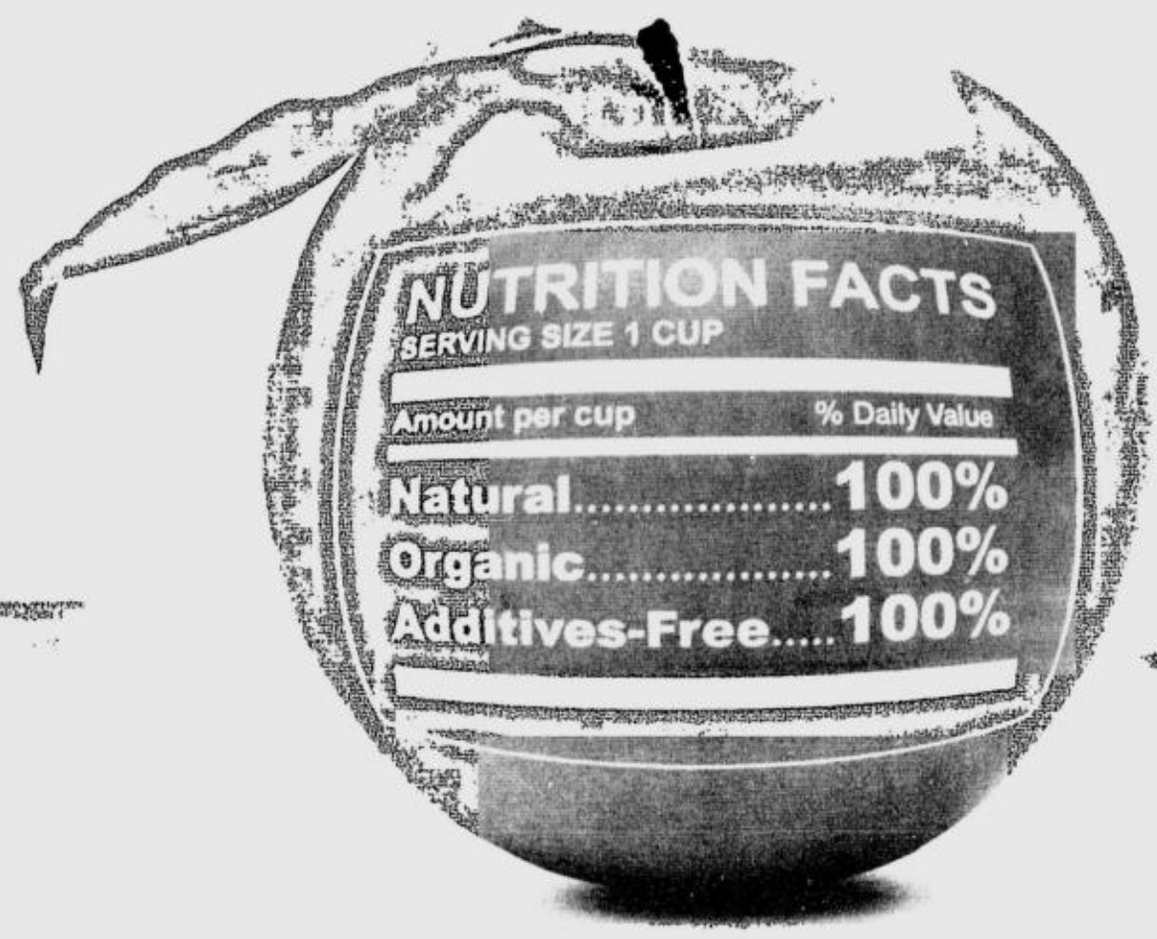
Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

The setting

A Violet Films opus directed by Joel Lamangan, "The Devil Wears Prada from Greenhills" takes place in a present-day publishing company somewhere in the high-octane business district of Caloocan. Located in a soaring three-story building, the office of the as-yet-unnamed fashion magazine enjoys commanding views of Zanjoe Marudo's billboard across the street and a bustling FX stop below.

THE DEVIL/ D4



NO ARTIFICIAL COLOR AND FLAVORING.

NO ARTIFICIAL PRESERVATIVES.

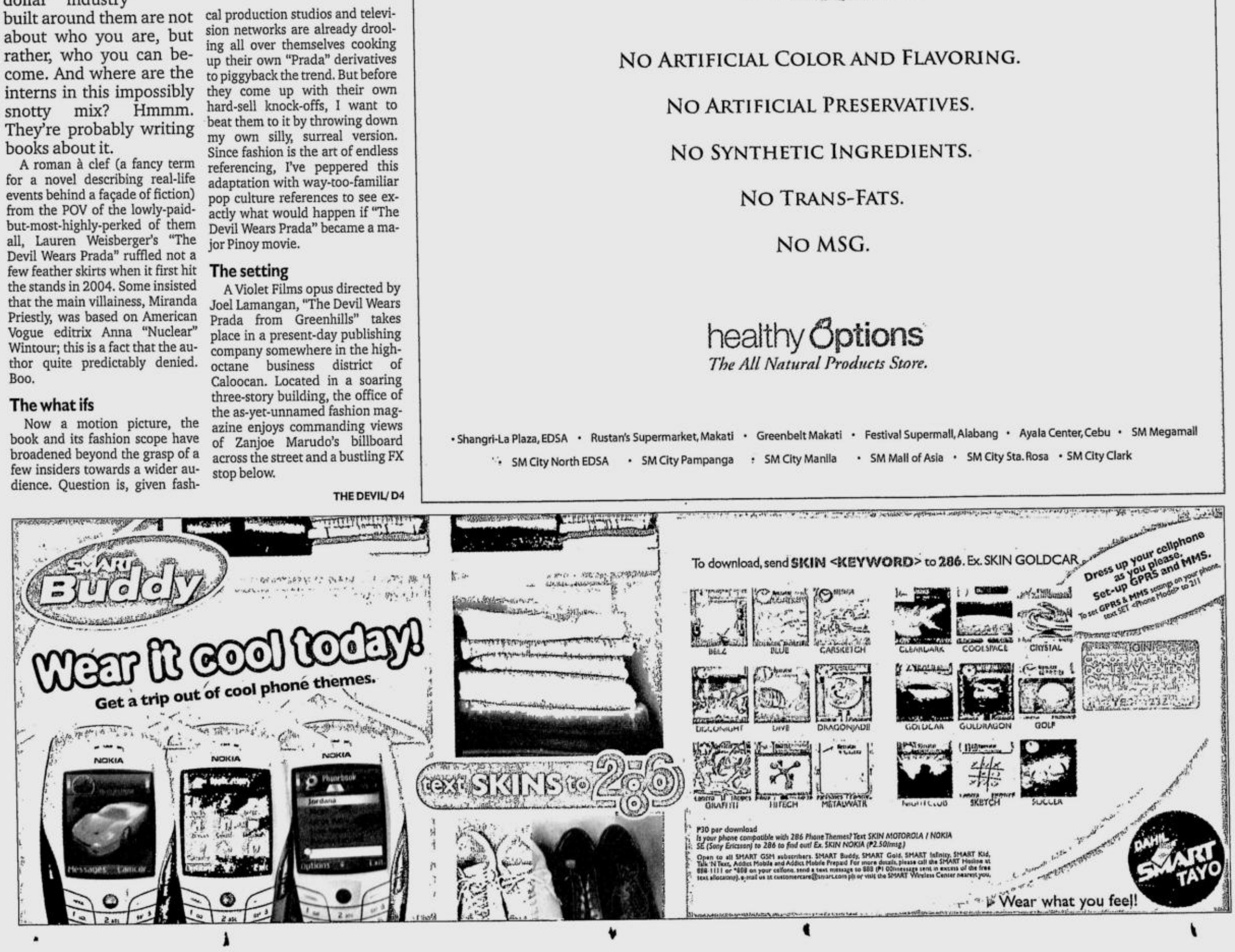
NO SYNTHETIC INGREDIENTS.

NO TRANS-FATS.

NO MSG.

healthy Options
The All Natural Products Store.

• Shangri-La Plaza, EDSA • Rustan's Supermarket, Makati • Greenbelt Makati • Festival Supermall, Alabang • Ayala Center, Cebu • SM Megamall • SM City North EDSA • SM City Pampanga • SM City Manila • SM Mall of Asia • SM City Sta. Rosa • SM City Clark



Off to the dump site in Payatas, Andrea Casiraghi crossed a steel hanging bridge.

ANDREA Casiraghi goes to Payatas to check on the developments of the Virlaine and AMADE project.

PAYATAS PAL. Check out her shirt.

The Prince goes to Payatas

HAVE A HEART. The Prince and his admirers.

Text and photos by Tim Yap

SMOKEY MOUNTAIN ISN'T exactly the venue I had in mind when one says, "You will have lunch with the prince."

But once upon this time in Payatas, Prince Andrea Pierre Casiraghi, son of Her Serene Highness Princess Caroline of Monaco paid a visit to Manila.

It was AMADE Philippines and its close partner Virlanie Foundation that brought the prince to Payatas. The 22-year-old philanthropic prince, together with the volunteers of Virlanie went to youth prisons and to the depressed areas of Tondo and Payatas.

"*Nandito na ang prinsipe*! (Here comes the prince!)" I heard the people of Payatas exclaim upon the arrival of a young, tall, blonde (nope, it wasn't me) man wearing a fuchsia pique shirt and faded jeans. He became an instant hearthrob as he gamely danced with the women of Payatas.

After that, the volunteers toured Smokey Mountain. I spoke to some Manila-based French volunteers of the Virlanie Foundation, some of whom go to the site on a daily basis to teach the Payatas kids and give them the support they need. They echoed the sad state of health of the people living in these areas.

On our way to the Virlanie house where lunch was to be served, I heard some people singing karaoke. The pathway we took going towards the house was lined with people coming out of their homes who all greeted us with a smile. I was amazed at how happy they seemed. Their disposition is a lesson for this money-obsessed world. I know people—with more possessions—who are in a sadder state.

Over lunch, Honorary Consul to Monaco Fortune Ledesma presided grace over meals with the Payatas kids. "*Ang guwapo nya noh*?" she told the kids. They all looked at him shyly, but with big smiles on their faces. We spoke briefly about Bali (his last stop before hitting Manila), his university, (he's taking up international politics and visual arts—what a combination—at the American University in Paris, where KC Concepcion is on her last year of studies) and why he was here. After that, we faced the Payatas community leaders where they had a dialogue with the prince.

All throughout, the prince was very gracious. He looked at everyone intently. He spoke in a very low and clear voice. "Thank you for your work," he would look at everyone in the eye, and nod his head with humility.

Although inspiring, one visit from a prince will not change the lives of the people in Payatas. But Prince Andrea's visit can make a lasting difference—if we follow his example and realize that we don't have to be royalty to help others.

If a prince can set foot on Smokey Mountain, why can't we?

IN PAYATAS, the Virlanie Community prepared a program to welcome Anbrea Casiraghi. He was asked for a dance and he willingly obliged.

ANDREA Casiraghi went to Payatas and witnessed how the community carries on.

CLOSE TO YOU. With the Community leaders of Payatas.

UNITED COLORS OF VIRLANIE. Tim Yap, Fortune Ledesma, Virlanie Foundation's founder and president Dominique Lemay, Prince Andrea Casiraghi and Sec. Gen. of AMADE Mondiale Francis Kasasa.

THE CHILDREN of Payatas with Andrea Casiraghi.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

AMADE MONDIALE, founded in 1963 by HSH Princes Grace of Monaco and chaired since 1993 HRH the Princess of Hanover, seeks to promote and protect children's rights on an international level. The association was set up with the aim to develop and support humanitarian aid programmes, and foster ethical and legal reflection in the area of the rights of the child.

All around the world AMADE Mondiale and its 16 local representative advocate for the protection of children's rights wherever these are intellectually, morally or physically endangered, without distinction of gender, race, religion, language, culture, social background or political opinion.

The Filipino branch of AMADE Mondiale, AMADE Philippines, was created in 1999 and collaborates closely with the Virlanie Foundation in the framework of the Children's Legal Rights Office and, among others, for the Mother and Child program.

The Virlanie Foundation established in 1992 has grown from a shelter for homeless children, to a growing network of 14 homes that take care of over 300 street children. It is a unique socio-civic organization in that its approach of community reintegration and mainstreaming have been deemed pioneering since its children are each provided a home located in a normal community setting with real couples acting as surrogate parents, a housemaid or housemother and two social workers. Hence, children are provided the best possible care through the various developmental services simulating the set-up of a typical Filipino family. To date the foundation has touched the lives of thousands of children who have been victims of various forms of abuse and exploitation from the street, jail, prostitution syndicates and even from their own abusive families and relatives.

T-Mac Time

From page D4

Aug. 28, Monday

Ambassadors at 70s Bistro; NBA's Tracy "T-Mac" McGrady at SM Mall of Asia's Music Hall; CanU DIGGIT? at Absinth; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ Ro at Gweilos Makati; Silk & Steel at Merk's; Eastwind Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah

Aug. 29, Tuesday

German Silent Film Festival (music by Drip) at Greenbelt 1 Cinema 1; Music Motion Band at Dungeon Bar; Moonstar88, Paramita, Wake Up Your Seatmate, Chillitees & Up Dharma Down at Saguijo; Tracy "T-Mac" McGrady at Glorietta at Ayala Center (11 a.m.); Cuisine Royale w/ Manolet Dario at Embassy Cuisine; Panic at Zen; Sex & the City Ladies Night at Mezze; DJs Patch & Erwin Edralin at Absinth; Kickback Tuesdays at Manila DJ Club; Two Rooms at Citrus; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; Spirit of '67 at Captain's Bar; Aretha & Souled Out at Merk's

Aug. 30, Wednesday

Listen to the energetic Bloomfields perform the Beatles, Beach Boys and other 60s hits at Rock n' Roll at Fuente Circle Eastwood City; The Dorques, Shoulder State & Spring Boutique at Saguijo; Bliss w/ GP Reyes at Temple; DJ Boyet Almazan at Strumm's; Smooth w/ DJ Steve Mills at Absinth; Discotech at Mezze; DJs Kari Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; Concertino at Azzurro Linden Suites; Funksouljah at Manila DJ Club; Birthday Bash at Citrus; DJs Mars Miranda & Johnyverse at Embassy Club; Stereo Therapy at Embassy VIP Room; Willy Wanka's Music Factory at Gwellos Makati; DJ Brit at Government; Double Happiness at Prince of Jaipur; Jazz Night w/ Julia Duncan at Merk's

Aug. 31, Thursday

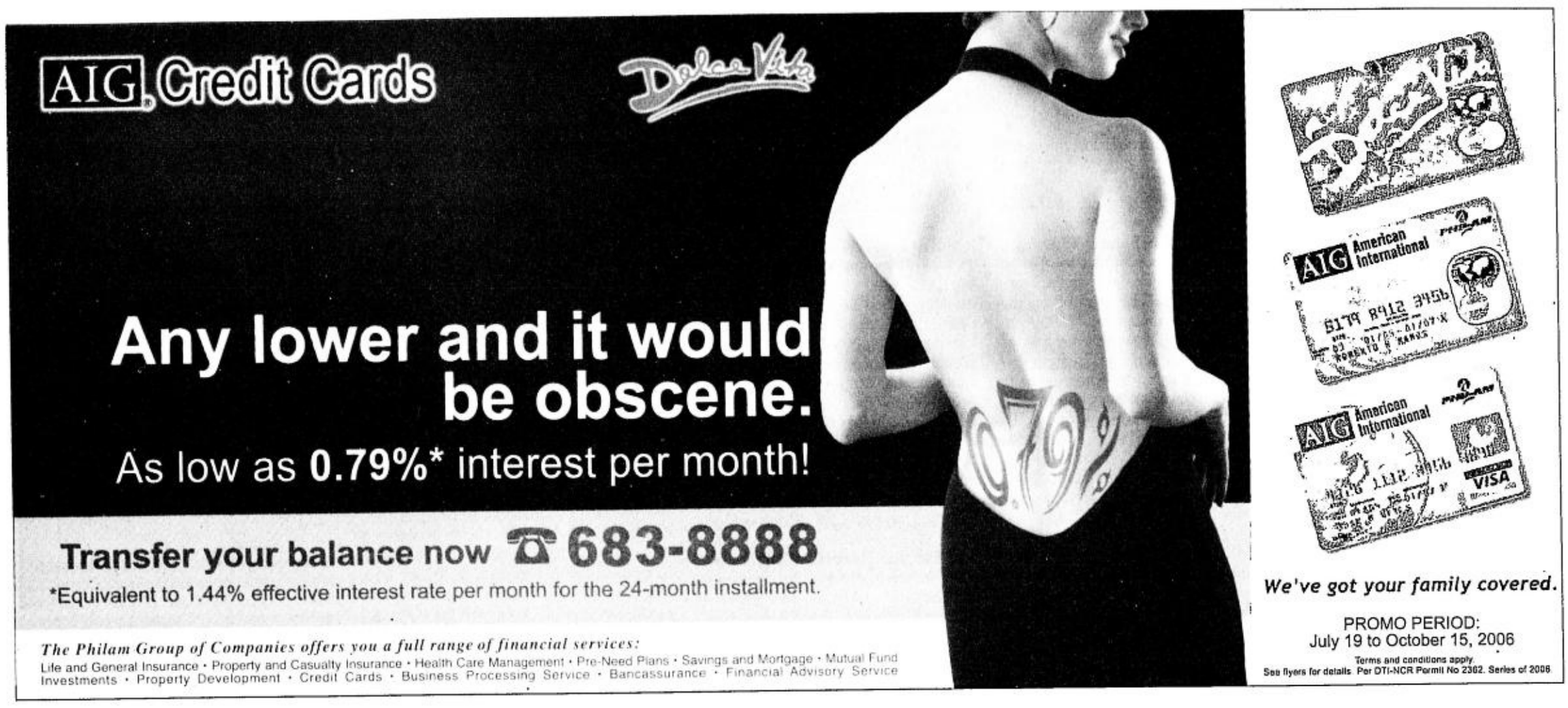
Bossa Nova princess Sitti lights up Eastwood City Walk 2 with songs from her best-selling album Café Bossa, Sitti: Bossa Nights at Eastwood City Walk 2; Imago & Sandwich at Saguijo; Gary V @ 23 at Music Museum; Brownman Revival at 70s Bistro; HouSonic w/ DJ Marie Garcia at Bed; Coup w/ Manolet Dario at Fiamma; Reggae Night at 6Underground; DJ Elian at Nuvo; GottaHaveHouse! at Capone's; G Lounge at Mezze; Pure Latin w/ DJ Arnel at Prince of Jaipur; Fluxxe Thursdays at Absinth; Supahstar DJ Thursdaze at Bed; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Acoustic Jive at Merk's

Sept. 1, Friday

House Sessions w/ DJs Marc Naval & Bombi Balquiedra at Fiamma; Music Motion Band at Dungeon Bar; Manila DJ Festival at Embassy Club; Music Perfectionist at Temple; DJ Boyet Almazan at Jill's; DJs Patch & Mon Maramba at Absinth; DJs JP Sacaben & Nix Pernia at Azzurro Linden Suites; Style w/ Steve Mills at Citrus; Disco Mania at MDC Greenhills; HouseBeats at Mati; MyHOUSE at M Café; Soul Shine w/ DJ Marie Garcia at Embassy Cuisine; The Jerks at 70s Bistro; Gogo Fridays at Bed; Route 70 at Merk's; DJs Scratchmark & Bliss at Prince of Jaipur; Amadeus at Shang Streetscape

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 (Globe) and 209 (Smart). Log on to mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 NOCTURNAL NAVIGATOR at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Tuesday to events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.

MUSIC Motion Band



Cheesy Volcano being rationed

Global City—Thousands of people blocked major roads leading to Pizza Hut to confirm rumors that the Cheesy Volcano pizza is going to be rationed. The crust bursting with three kinds of delicious cheese—mozzarella, cheddar and provolone—is so good cheese lovers from all over are buying it in bulk.

Overwhelming demand for this popular pizza led to a shortage of cheese in the country. Pizza Hut had to import different kinds of cheese from all over the world just to keep up with the demand. Insiders say they are anticipating an even bigger demand because of their newly launched BBQ ribs toppings.

"Mufshhh thurdurrr voneluff viffruvvvs arrh showwww guuuuf," exclaimed Joyce, a self-confessed cheese lover during an interview. It is difficult to understand what exactly she meant so we got a linguist specializing in talking-while-mouth-is-full language to translate it for us. Apparently after having her repeat it five times, the linguist finally understood what she meant, "These tender, boneless pork ribs are so good!"

HUNDREDS of thousands gather outside a Pizza Hut restaurant to protest the newly-established Cheesy Volcano Rationing Program.

Pizza Hut spokesman Larry Magno admitted to being overwhelmed by the response of the crowd. To avoid a commotion from happening, Pizza Hut had no choice but to set up a Cheesy Volcano Rationing Program. "Let's have pizza for all," Magno stated. To ensure every Filipino will have his fair share, the popular crust has to be rationed.

Cheese lovers were stunned and immediately formed a movement against the program. This is their official press statement: "We are the Kilusang Ayaw Sa Rationing or Kilusang ASAR. We formed this movement primarily to stop the Cheesy Volcano Rationing Program. Pizza Hut oh Pizza Hut, we urge you, please stop rationing. Because we won't survive without Cheesy Volcano pizza. It is the apple of my eye, the tear to my aray, the breeze of my pamaypay, the fruit of my tangkay, the rainbow of my kulay, the love of my buhay. Buhuhu huhu huhu. BUHUHU HUHU."

Other people believe rationing is good for the nation. "It will teach us the value of sharing and friendship. And that's important because we are the world. We are the children. We are the ones who make a brighter place so let's start giving," says loyal customer Michael Jack Ong. Pizza fan Bob Geldofonso agrees, "We need to feed the world, feed the world, feed the world."

Sign up for your free Ration Card at any Pizza Hut branch. It contains discounts and freebies so be careful. Reports say these are being stolen and sold in the black market. Make sure to get your share, call 911-11-11 now or visit your nearest Pizza Hut before it's too late.

The Devil wears Prada ...

From page D1

Come fashion week, the action shifts to Boracay, by the ferris wheel in D'Mall, which is a stand-in for the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Transpiring soon after is a killer carousel of shows with models wearing swimsuits from creatively faceless brands and performances by Bamboo, Kitchie Nadal, and the usual indie suspects. Instead of opening with KT Tunstall's "Suddenly I See" like in "The Devil Wears Prada," the soundtrack of "The Devil Wears Prada from Greenhills" kicks off with "Bebot" by the Black Eyed Peas for a dose of pure, grating senselessness.

The cast

Trapped in social realism mode, the cast of this film will be made to look *kawawa* as usual to, you know, grab the sympathy of the *masa* who really, really look forward to confronting the same images of poverty they're trying to dodge.

Leading the charge is Vilma Santos in the role made popular by Meryl Streep, Miranda Priestly. As the sacred cow at Kislap Magazine, her editorial moodswings trigger climate changes from *tiangges* in Metrowalk to department stores in Novaliches. In true OTT style, her cowlick is courtesy of Reyes Haircutters, complementing her it bag collection from Secosana, Leonardo, Hawk, and yes, Prada ... from Greenhills. Toni Gonzaga plays her first assistant, Phoemily (rhymes with Emily), a dragon lady in the making who picked up a British accent by watching too much Veronica Pedrosa on CNN.

Starring as the intern who initially moves at a glacial pace but quickly picks up after a makeover montage is Samantha Melba. Adjusting to the character inspired by Anne Hathaway's Andrea Sachs, Sam will rock a classy wig patterned after Claudine Barretto's bangs in "Milan." His breakthrough role in this movie capitalizes on his sudden ubiquity in Pinoy showbiz, so he is also everyone's understudy, playing whoever calls in sick and changing facial hair/Bench outfits/physical spasms every time. Or not, which further underscores the farce at hand.

Rounding out the powerhouse dramatis personae are Wilma Doesnt as Giselle Bundchen's character; Melanie Marquez as editor in chief of Cebu Kislap Jacqueline José (pronounced Zsack-leen Zso-say); and Boy Abunda as Nigel, who in this film is called Bhoy. Acting in minor though equally crucial parts are Piolo Pascual as the insecure boyfriend; Epy Quizon as the gallery curator/best friend; Uma Khouny as the pal who can pronounce Nicholas Ghesquiere's name correctly; Vic Sotto as the tapered jeans-wearing freelance writer whom Sam sleeps with during a moment of weakness in Boracay; Blakdyak as the emerging James Holt-like designer; the entire Eigenmann clan as the obligatory tisoy bit players; and Maximo Oliveros as the town *loka-loka* dressed in colors of the Pinoy flag.

Remember, the leitmotif of "The Devil Wears Prada from Greenhills" is fashion with a social conscience, so there must always be a subtle-meaning obvious-symbol of unfortunate *Inang* Pilipinas in every frame. Right.

The plot

Like David Spade's "Just Shoot Me" only poor, "The Devil Wears Prada from Greenhills" is a tale about a mousy girl who comes of age after being exposed to a wicked superior, the dazzling lights of Boracay (Station 3), and the power of an *ukay* outfit. Vilma Santos ignites the screen as a ruthless fashion editor and force majeure at Kislap magazine, Caloocan's only glossy publication. Her first assistant (Toni Gonzaga) struggles to get on her good-meaning bad-side and interviews another intern after the first two she hired turned out to be less than stellar. She has been desolée for that snafu ever since.

Along comes an unassuming *barrio* lass (Samantha Melba) who knows zilch about the publishing business but can belt a mean version of "My Girl." After graduating from university, Sam sees this as a mere stepping-stone to a hotdog endorsement. Showing no awareness about fashion but again, displaying a gift for grooming eyebrows, Sam gets the coveted lackey position "a million girls would kill for."

Vilma nonetheless treats Sam like garbage, commanding her to do seemingly impossible tasks like ordering *tapsilog* (extra garlic) when Tapa King was still closed, rebooking a return flight via Cebu Pacific when there was a typhoon in Tagbilaran, and finding the unpublished Pugad Baboy manuscript. A clear ploy to make our heroine quit a job that pays dozens of dollars, it, however, didn't work. Sam soon finds support from one of the magazine's senior editors (Boy Abunda), who gives Sam full access to the Kislap *ukay-ukay*.

The ending

With newfound confidence and an improved outlook, Sam now faces a series of conflicts. For one thing, friends notice Sam's workaholic calendar, which doesn't leave them opportunities to hang and stuff. As a joke, they hide Sam's ancient Nokia 3210 just as Vilma was calling again, something that didn't go down well with our intern. To make matters worse, Vilma leads Sam into stabbing Phoemily (Toni Gonzaga) in the back by offering the trip to Boracay. Sam knows that Phoemily had been dieting for months for the "event of the season," even giving up carbs like her favorite *pancit canton* with rice, just to fit into a dress from Lanvin, I mean Landmark.

But as Sam is whisked away to Bora with Vilma and sees all the glamour that could be hers, including a hook-up with a sleazy freelance journalist (Vic Sotto), Sam deals with a crossroads that could affect the foreseeable future. The turning point came when, during a tricycle ride home, Vilma tells Sam to stay with her at Kislap, saying "everyone wants to be us," but in Tagalog. To up the "Up yours!" denouement, Sam does not walk out on Vilma and instead, hijacks the plane on their way home, ramming it into the Kislap office while sticking out a size 6 ass, the new fourteen. Maximo Oliveros appears in the frame one last time before they roll out the gag reel and the end credits. Then, having the last laugh, Vilma does a throaty voice over from the beyond.

"That's all."

T-Mac Time

24/7

Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

FROM THE RIB-TICKLING FORUM of the "Queer Eye" cast to the jam-packed concert of Constantine Maroulis to the book signing session of author David Sedaris, the city's shopping malls have become the new hotspot for foreign celebrity/Filipino fan interactions.

And just when Manila's mallrats thought they'd have to wait a few months for another celebrity meet-and-greet, they're in for another surprise. NBA superstar Tracy McGrady (better known to basketball fans as "T-Mac") swoops into town next week as part of his four-city Asian Tour.

The 27-year-old Houston Rockets forward will be at SM Mall of Asia's Music Hall on Monday (Aug. 28; 5 p.m.) and at Ayala Center's Glorietta on Tuesday (Aug. 29; 11 a.m.) to mingle with his Filipino fans and launch his Limited Edition T-MAC 1 shoe by Adidas.

In between, he'll be participating in various community events and basketball clinics. It will be T-Mac's third visit to the Philippines after gracing the Adidas Streetball Challenge in 2000 and 2005.

Those from the central business district may not look at Quezon City for their late night entertainment, but they probably have not discovered Eastwood City, which is certified as a tourist destination by Department of Tourism. They play host to the energetic Bloomfields who play Beatles, Beach Boys and other '60s hits at Rock n' Roll at Fuente Circle, Eastwood City every Wednesday until September. Bossa Nova princess Sitti also lights up Eastwood City Walk 2 with songs from her best-selling album, Café Bossa on Aug. 31.

Other Super! 24/7 events:

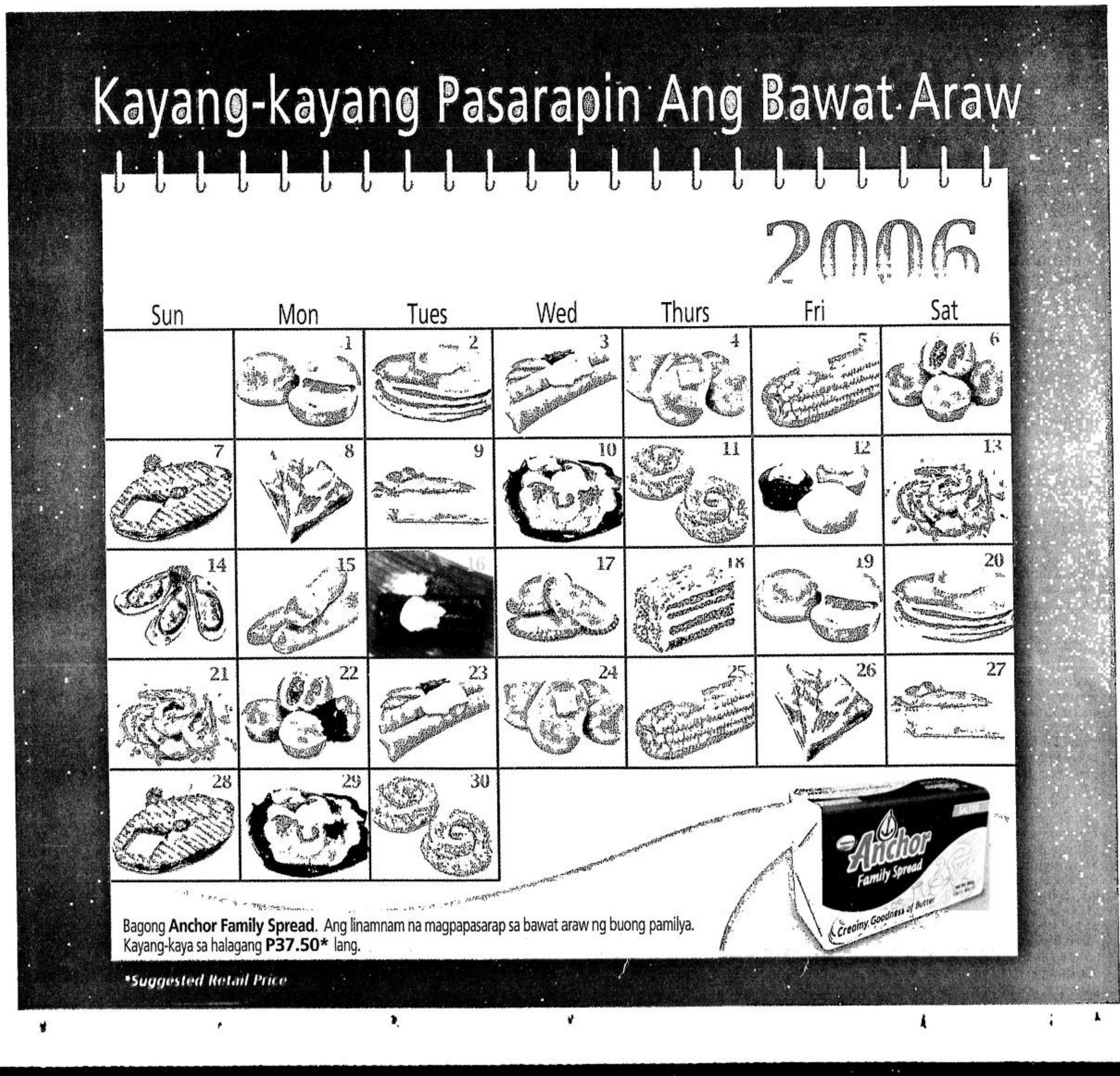
Aug. 26, Saturday

House Nation w/ DJ KQM at Capone's; Pinikpikan at 70s Bistro; Triggerbliss, Valley of Chrome, Music Motion Band at Nicotina Garden Pavillion, Tension,Cultured Milk, Glorious Masai Mara & Tie Dye Shift at Saguijo; Souled Out band at Shang Streetscape; Urban Groove at Citrus; DJs Paolo Maralit and Cao Ocampo at Jill's; Party On! w/ DJ Buddha & JD at Absinth; Salsa Night at Ricco-Renzo Café ; House Groovin' at Mezze; Sleepless w/ DJ Martin Pulgar at Embassy Club; Campusition Night at Mag:net Café; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; Wham Bam at Government; DJs Scratchmark & Shorty at Prince of Jaipur; Massive Saturdays at Bed

Aug. 27, Sunday

Tanghalang Pilipino's Orpheus Descending at CCP; Pianist Teresa Avila at Tivoli; Champagne Lunch at Paseo Uno, Mandarin Oriental; Jay Ticar exhibit at UP Vargas Museum; Champagne Brunch at Spiral, Hotel Phil. Plaza

T-MAC/ D3



MARK NICDAO

SUPER'S! very own KC Concepcion invites you to join her and her artist friends next week for the Super! artist fair and celebrity bazaar.

Let's go to the market next Sunday (Sept. 3)

The Super's Artists Fair will be overloaded with art, artists, bazaar staples, young designers, bargains, celebrity picks, live music, films, advocacies and exploding with creative energy. Don't forget your 'bayong'!

taking in the

Gold Rush

with the

MOTORAZR V3i

Dolce & Gabbana

The Midas touch is reincarnated for the 20th century, as Motorola releases the new MotoRAZR V3i Dolce & Gabbana. A handset dripping in gold brilliance, it reflects the mobile brand's collaboration with Italian fashion house Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana.

MotoRAZR V3i Dolce & Gabbana is a child of style and function as it intertwines Motorola's mobile leadership and Dolce & Gabbana's sexy style sass to take the mobile experience to a whole new level.

The striking handset comes with a lanyard bearing the design house's initials with exclusive D&G ringtones, screen savers and wallpapers. More than being a looker, the handset is outfitted with an enhanced mini-USB headset and a removable Micro SD™ memory card for storing photos, music and video clips.

The 1.23 megapixel camera with an 8x digital zoom and full screen viewfinder doesn't scrimp on technological trappings and fits just as perfectly in your palm or bag.

The globetrotting fashionista will appreciate MotoRAZR V3i Gold's airplane mode that makes accessing the address book, games and music while in transit safe and easy. Crossing time zones is not a worry with its quad-band global GSM coverage and GPRS operation.

Feel like being competitive? Take a jab at challenging your friends for a fun round of games through the Bluetooth® peer to peer gaming.

MotoRAZR V3i Dolce & Gabbana also allows self-expression through its varied choice of "skins" to personalize your user interface just as you would change the fashions you wear to fit your many moods.

The speaker independent voice activation and hands-free speakerphone flatters a multi-tasking lifestyle and is also conveniently capable to wirelessly connect to Bluetooth® enabled PCs, headsets, and other devices.

Truly, the MotoRAZR V3i Dolce & Gabbana is literally the gold standard for mobile style and substance for people who demand nothing less.

MOTOROLA

motorola RAZR V3i

- distinctively thin profile
- intuitively tunes music flow
- listen to the music on an external mini USB stereo headset
- 1.23 megapixel camera with 8x digital zoom and full screen viewfinder
- Up to 12MB of built-in memory
- Includes a 128MB transflash memory card which stores photos, music and video clips

₱15,990*

Suggested Retail Price

motorola RAZR V3i

- Superior slim design
- Enhanced mini USB Bluetooth connectivity
- 176 x 220 pixel, 262K TFT colour display
- Digital camera (VGA) with 4x zoom
- MPEG4 video clip playback and download

₱10,990*

Suggested Retail Price

MOTOSTYLE

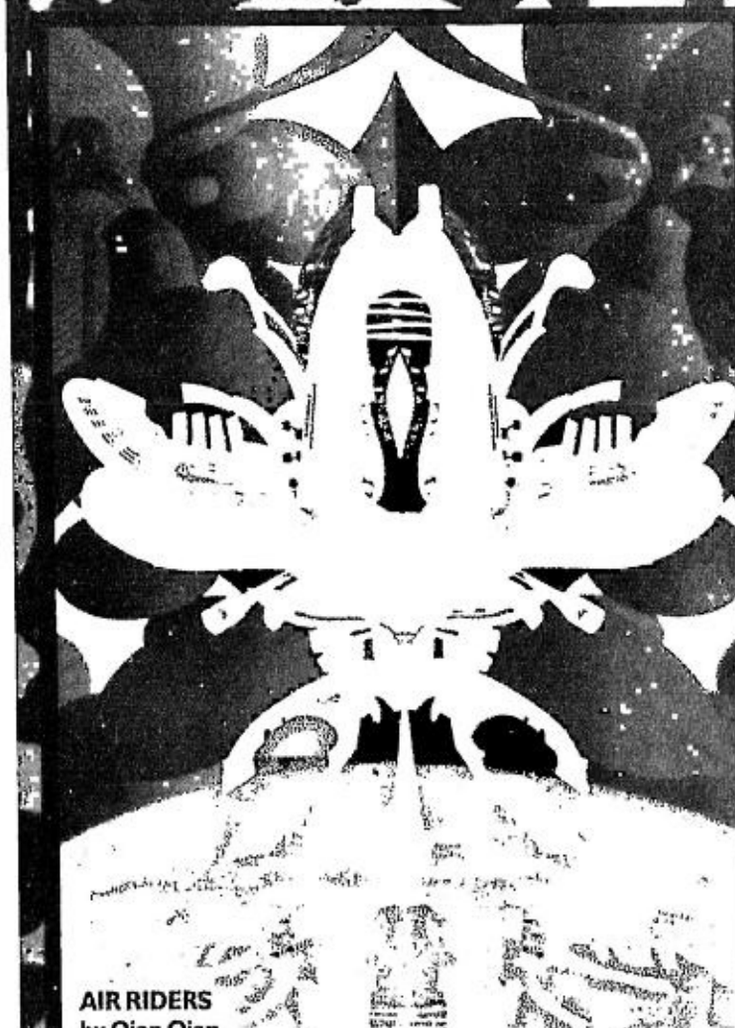
hellomoto.com/ph

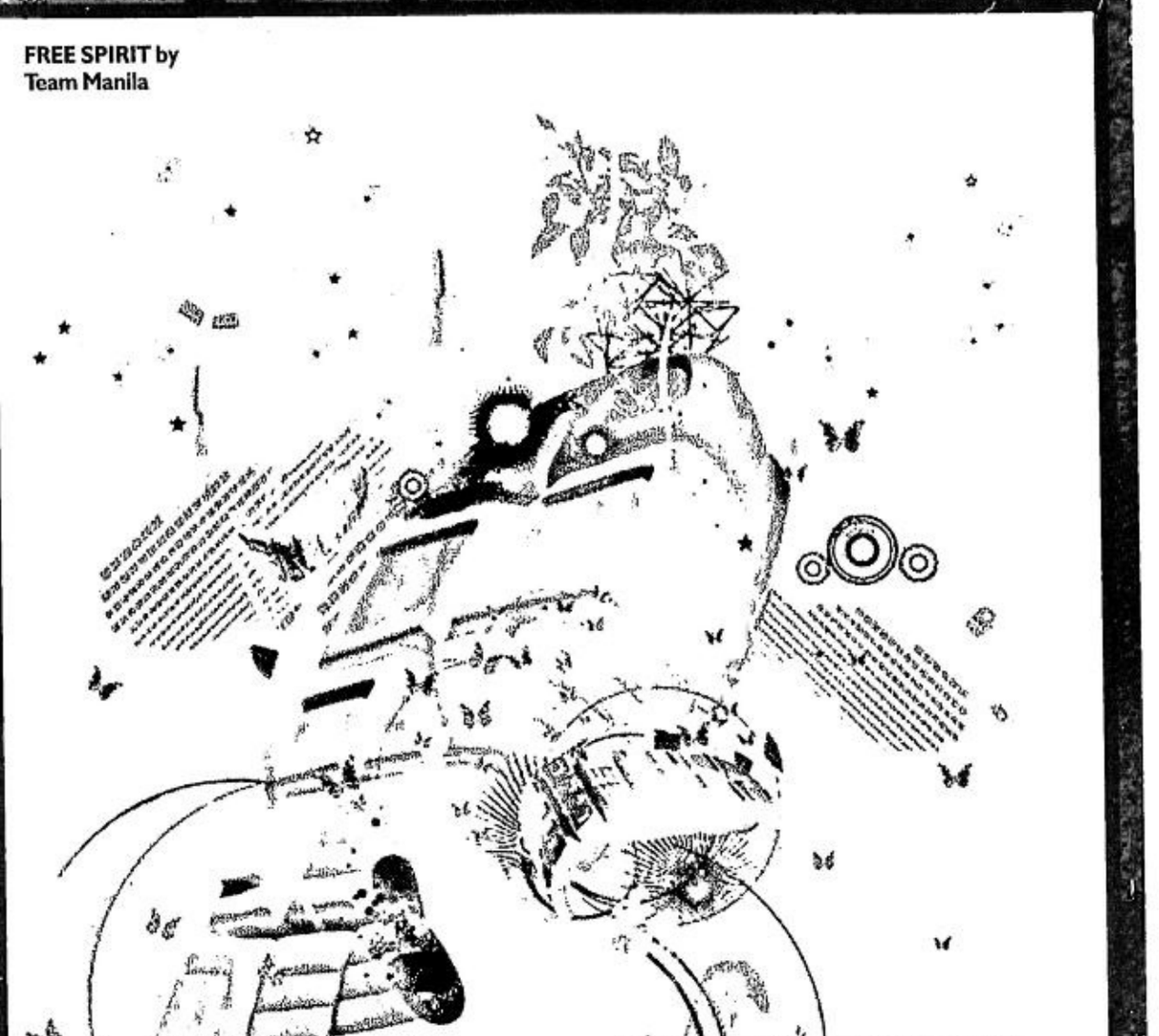
*Suggested Retail Prices are subject to change without prior notice.

Revolution

It's a world of giants.
Pounding in the lane and
Using 650 muscles in the body
To fight for position.
You need support.
The paint is dangerous territory.
Unforgiving to the ill-prepared.
Real estate gold for the taking.
And if you don't own it,
It owns you.
Own it.

CLOUDRUNNERS
by Electrolychee


AIR RIDERS
by Qian Qian



Artists + Shoe Parts = Shoe as Art

By David Milan

INNOVATIVE AND revolutionary best describes the newest campaign of Nike as they recently launched their Fall 2006 Premium Footwear collection with an art exhibit that features the works of Electrolychee, Collision Theory, and 2006 I Am Superl awardee Team Manila. The exhibit showcased the visually orgasmic worlds of art and shoemaking.

Nike has always been the pack leader when it comes to sports technology for ages now. Each shoe is made to push the human limits to its boundaries, to help them keep up with the fast-paced evolution the world is going through. But come to think of it, it is never easy to come up with a footwear that is fit only for winners. It takes more than just rubber, soles and laces to create it. They carefully examine every little detail that makes up their iconic footwear. In the masterpieces on this page, you can see the different renditions of the artists as they incorporate the flesh and bones that make up Nike's latest shoes.

Want to see the actual artworks? Visit their gallery inside the Ayala Avenue-Makati Avenue underpass for your quick visual fixation.

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Until it's needed.
Or polluted.
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It will do nothing.
Respect it, and
It can do anything.
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All the way around.

ALULA by
Eisaku Kitoh

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But strong. Open, but
With conviction.
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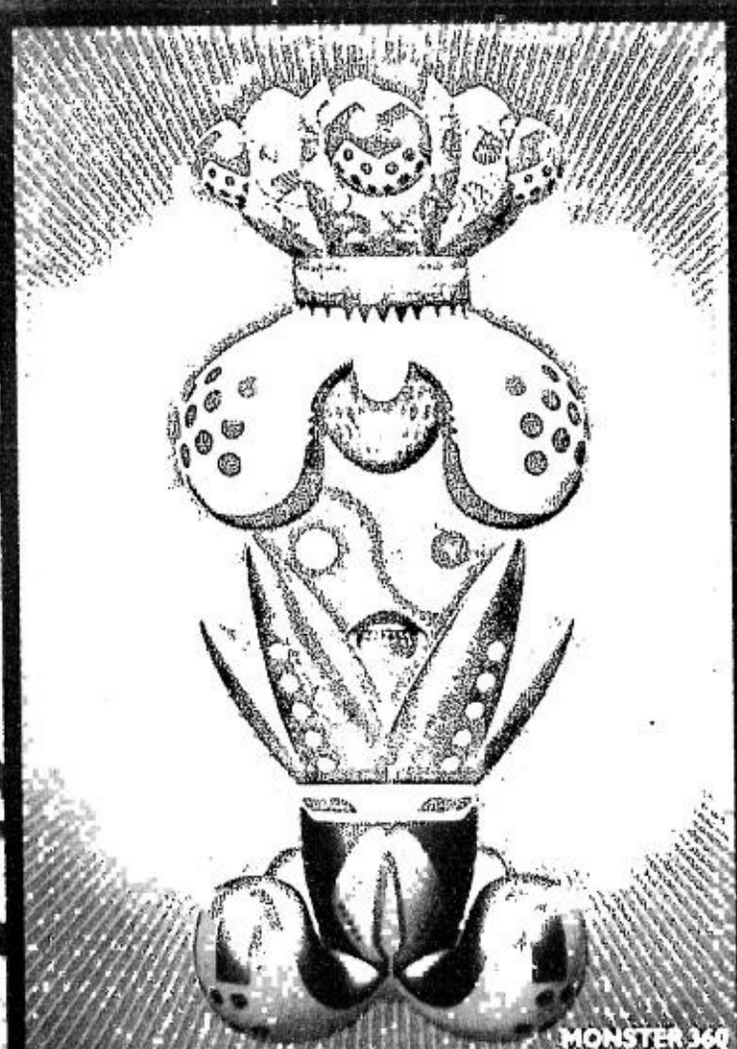
You just have to want it,
And then use it.
Freedom means nothing
If you just sit there.


MONSTER 360
by Yun Hun

Let's go to the market next Sunday

By Pam Pastor

TO THINK OF IT JUST AS a bazaar would be a big mistake. Super's Artists' Fair will be teeming with your favorite bazaar staples—unique offerings from young entrepreneurs, the excitement of finding bargains and the chance to meet young designers—but it will offer so much more than that.

"We are going to create a venue where people can just hang out and be surrounded by the spirit that artists have, *yung* energy. We want to bring young artists and young art lovers together in a comfortable place and let them expose their artwork and be exposed to art," says KC Concepcion, Super columnist and one of the event's organizers.

Super promises to give you a Sunday you wouldn't forget. On Sept. 3, from 10 a.m. onwards, the Rockwell Tent will be exploding with creativity, artistic energy and raw power.

KC added, "There will be live music, DJ beats, indie bands, spoken word artists. There will be spontaneity, whoever's up for jamming can take the stage."

Artists, headed by Ronald Pasion, will be showcasing their craft in different ways. Aspiring artists will also get the chance to explore their talents at the Center for Art Lovers which will hold painting, drawing and other art sessions during the day.

According to KC, there will be a lot of sharing on different levels. "Consumers can get what they want and nonconsumers can get what they want too."

Second hand goods from celebrities will be up for grabs—giving people the chance to check out what's in their closets. This will take fandom to another level—you can buy your favorite celebrities' stuff and tell the world you did it for charity.

Super will also be awarding another batch of people who are rocking different fields.

Bands will be performing from 6 p.m. and films will be screened at the venue too.

And fun prizes will be given out the whole day.

Your P50 entrance fee will not only get you access to a full day of Super activities—it will also be donated to the event's beneficiaries—Hands On Manila Foundation and Virlanie Children's Foundation.

Artists, bargains, great finds, fun, workshops, bands, young designers, film screenings—these things should be enough to make you want to go. But if not, KC has one more reason for you to go.

"Coz it will kick ass."

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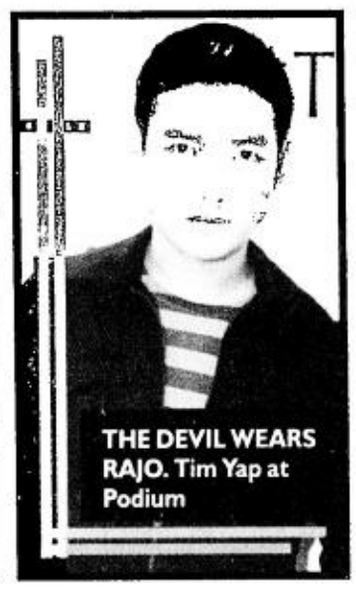
METRO RUNWAY. Thelma San Juan, Luis Espiritu and Mel Cuevas

HONEYMOON BLISS. Audrey Zubiri

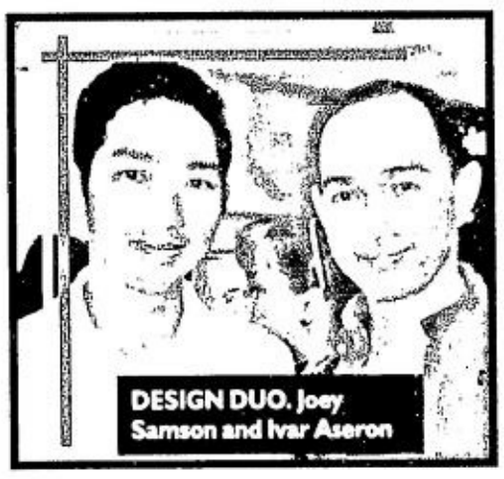
The audience wins Prada

DESIGNERS, STYLISTS AND advertising people recently enjoyed the year's ultimate *fashionista* movie when Metro Magazine, the magazine of the independent woman, and the Lifestyle Network sponsored the Philippine premiere of the controversial movie "The Devil Wears Prada," starring Meryl Streep as the dragon lady fashion magazine editor allegedly inspired by Vogue's Anna Wintour. Other major sponsors were HSBC, SSI and Prada, and Nesvita. Two screenings were held at 5:50 and 8:30 p.m. last Aug. 21 at the Podium Cinema to accommodate viewers. Special prizes from Prada (naturally) were raffled away to lucky guests.

BOY BELO. Dra. Vicki Belo with Hayden



THE DEVIL WEARS RAJO. Tim Yap at Podium



DESIGN DUO. Joey Samson and Ivar Aseron

NOT JUST FASHION. Jenni Epperson, inspiring the next

NO CARBS, JUST SHU. Tina Tinio and Tessa Dragon

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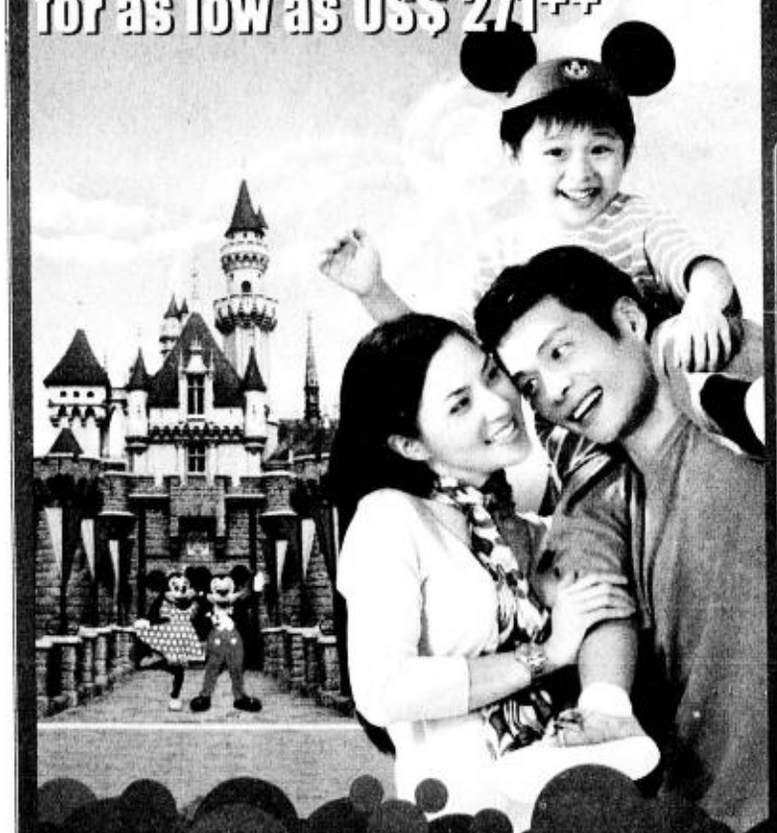

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- One way transfer from hotel to Avenue of Stars/Symphony of Lights at the Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade (scheduled at 10am or 3pm; prior reservations recommended)
- (1) night hotel accommodation at Disney's Hollywood Hotel
- One way transfer on sit-in coach from Hong Kong Disneyland to downtown hotel
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Editor **Nestor U. Torre**
Assistant Editor **Rito P. Asilo**

Streep shines with magnificent display of thespic showmanship

By Rito P. Asilo

"The Devil Wears Prada"
D: David Frankel
S: Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Stanley Tucci, Emily Blunt.

SUCCESS IS NEVER SWEET IF YOU don't find it on your own terms. This, the beautiful and wide-eyed Andrea Sachs (Anne Hathaway), learns when she applies as an assistant to influential fashion magazine editor, the imperious Miranda Priestly (Meryl Streep), who inspires a measure of awe and unmitigated fear among denizens of the seemingly frivolous world of fashion.

A fresh journalism graduate of Northwestern, Andy—who doesn't know a Manolo Blahnik from *ukay-ukay*—has set her sights on The New Yorker, but takes a job at high-fashion bible Runway magazine as a stepping stone to a lucrative journalistic career. After all, she's told that if she can run Miranda's gauntlet for a year, there's no publishing Everest she can't climb.

Typical 'fashionista'

Unfortunately, "smart, fat girl" Andy doesn't fit the mold of New York's typical *fashionista*. In the eyes of fashion's rarefied and distorted aesthetics, she will always remain an outsider—until she reduces her size-six frame into a size-four figure!

With the help of acerbic-tongued but kind-hearted mentor, Nigel (Stanley Tucci), the "reviled" duckling soon turns into an enviable swan. But, hard-fought success always comes with a steep price—for Andy and, more so, for Miranda.

One the year's most engaging films, Frankel's big-screen adaptation of Lauren Weisberger's best-selling novel is a well-realized cinematic tale about

STREEP. Nothing in this world is as simple as black and white. CARRICATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

feminism. Interestingly, the director aptly notes the double standard that still runs rampant in politically-correct modern society: "It's easy to criticize famous, successful women when they put their work above all else. Ironically, *that's* never an issue among men."

The movie is likewise a searing portrait of the glossy, multimillion-dollar industry that thrives on style-conscious hypocrisy, even moral apostasy. For starters, it cautions viewers to take the world of high fashion as "serious business—*without* taking it too seriously."

The story's conflict and its main characters' simmering tension are reminiscent of the Sigourney Weaver-Melanie Griffith duel in Mike Nichols' clever 1988 comedy, "Working Girl"—about an opportunistic boss and her brilliant assistant.

To be fair, as the inimitable Meryl Streep demonstrates, nothing in this world is as simple as black and white. Hollywood's greatest living actress portrays Miranda's uncompromising perfectionism with venomous relish, and displays her comedic skill with complete confidence and sophisticated flair.

Hathaway, for her part, proves that her breakthrough portrayal in last year's "Brokeback Mountain" was no fluke and, along with Tucci and Emily Blunt as Priestly's haughty *other* assistant, delivers a compelling performance. But, make no mistake, the film belongs to Streep, who tears up the scenic landscape, steals every scene she's in, and runs away with the film—minus the histrionics!

She transcends the campy, Cruella De Vil-like caricature with a performance that froths and throbs with informed nuance and exhilarating humanity, and nails her textured characterization with inner-life and pathos—particularly when Andy catches Miranda in one of her rare, vulnerable moments:

Unspoken grief

Streep's Miranda doesn't huff and puff from marital angst and misery—a logical dramatic route you'd imagine other actresses would take. In the scene, you just see a silently weeping Streep sitting on an expensive couch as she dabs her swollen eyes—and you're totally riveted by the sight of this familiar image, who's now overcome with unspoken grief!

Not entirely original but immensely entertaining, the movie is nevertheless a must-see, not so much for what it wants to say, but because of its lead actress' magnificent display of thespic showmanship.

In Streep's deft hands, the devil does indeed wear Prada. But, in Miranda's occasional moments of weakness, the stiletto-wearing evil incarnate proves that she is human, after all!

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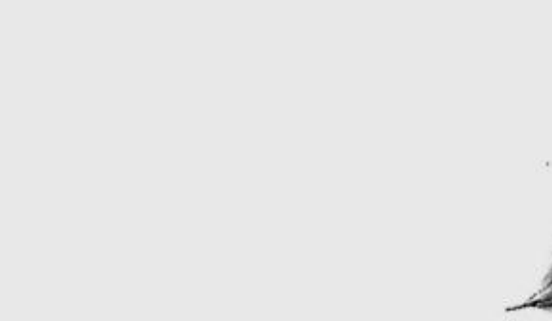

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My memorable artistic collaboration with a courageous and visionary film master

By Leticia Fariñas

I BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH LINO Brocka when he got my number from our mutual friend, Ricky Lo, and called me early one morning in the '70s. He said he badly needed a period story for a film with the Ilocos as setting. The tobacco industry should be its centerpiece, he stressed.

He enumerated the stars he had already lined up for the colossal film project: Christopher de Leon, Hilda Koronel, Marianne dela Riva, Phillip Salvador, Bembol Roco, and the US-based Lolita Rodriguez.

Major characters

Lino shared that the big-budgeted film's producer was no less than the head of the Philippine Tobacco Administration. "That's why the tobacco industry is a must in the story. Remember to interweave tobacco into the lives of the major characters," he reminded me.

The acclaimed filmmaker was excited about the project, but he revealed that, even after a long search, he still has no story good enough for his vision for the film. That's why he asked me to accept the challenge and write a period story about the Ilocos, the Ilocanos and the tobacco industry. I can still remember what he said: "Let us cooperate without dictatorship; justify to the moviegoer our artistic integrity."

"You can include the other cottage industries, like blanket-weaving, pottery-making, especially *basi*-making," he added.

I admitted that I was a full-blooded Ilocana—but, a complete nobody as a screenwriter. The story was a tall order beyond my capability. Instead, I recommended some prominent Ilocano writers to come up with a story for him.

Determination

But, no amount of protestation on my part could dent Lino's determination. He said he was pressed for time, he had only one week before the deadline, and there was still the then Board of Censors' slow process of script approval to contend with.

He was openly critical of the system and the bureaucracy, and courageously criticized the Marcos dictatorship and its minions for their many crimes against the people.

"There's a good book which can start you off," he said. "It's 'Ladaoan,' written by Dr. Marcelino Foronda Jr. It's rich in the history, culture and literature of the Ilocos." He also gave me the titles of other writings that depicted the pioneering spirit of the Ilocano, and his search for identity.

"Now, you're in good hands," he chirped. "*Pwede mo nang sulatin* our magnum opus!"

But, my apprehensions remained. In no mood to accept rejection, Lino shifted gears. He told me to think the matter over and he'd call me up a day after. "Perhaps by then, you'll be sure of yourself and your creative ability," he hoped.

Souvenir

I have a souvenir from Lino, a torn notebook page with a message scrawled in his own handwriting: "Kindly give the bearer the storyline... Thank you, Lino Brocka."

It took one whole day before Lino called me up to react to the story I had submitted. He exclaimed, "I like it! You're my savior, I don't know what I could have done without you!"

Later, however, the producer went missing! Lino said he got no response at all from his office, even after repeated phone calls. Lino was sure the disappearance was deliberate.

He was fuming mad. He had already advanced P14,000 from his own pocket for location hunting in far-off Ilocos. My story went unpaid, and the same happened to Mario O'Hara, who had written the screenplay.

Frustrated, Lino said ruefully: "If only I had the means, I would produce this beautiful film myself!"

RODRIGUEZ, Brocka and Aunor rehearse a scene for "Ina Ka ng Anak Mo."

It took one whole year before I heard the familiar voice of my phone pal again. This time, he needed an ingeniously worked-out plot that would elicit the best performances from two top dramatic actresses—Nora Aunor and Lolita Rodgriguez.

"*Bahala ka na kung magkapatid sina* Lolita *at* Nora," he said. "*Pwede rin silang mag-ina, magpinsan, o magbiyenan. Ang importante*, we get a good story—in one week!"

More enduring

He stressed that the story should not be safely conventional, but should be something more enduring. Butch Dalisay would write the screenplay.

Happily, the promising project *was* produced—titled "Ina Ka Ng Anak Mo," it became a multi-awarded motion picture.

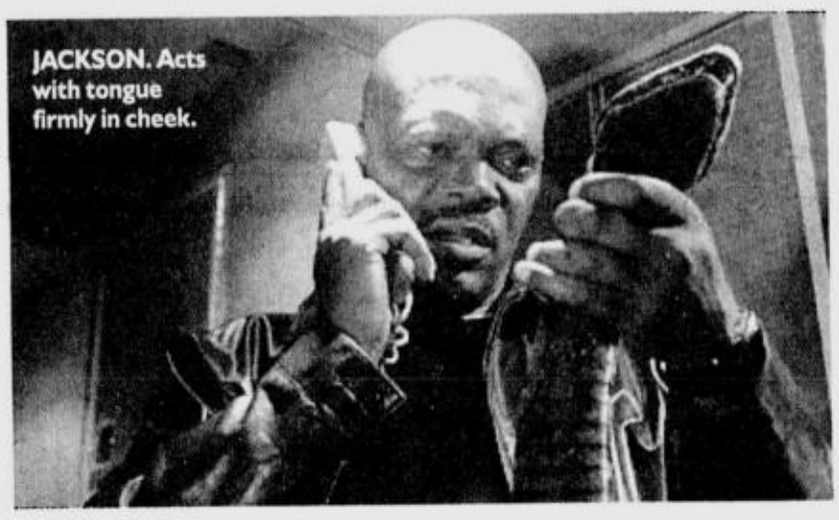
But, our other projects ended up unfilmed—"Ladaoan" was *nadenggoy*; "Anak Ka Ng Ina Mo" went on hold because the producer went to the States (and never came back); "Sina Fil at Beau" was misplaced by Lino himself; and "Make Me Happy/Halakhak Ng Mga Diyos" was awaiting a producer. ("Sina Fil at Beau" was a true story based on the bureaucracy under the Marcos dictatorship.)

But, Lino felt most strongly about "Ladaoan," which he believed could be expanded into a significant historical film, to be titled "Filipinas, Bayan Ko," perhaps with the help of the illustrious Nick Joaquin.

Helping hand

Later, it was National Artist Lamberto V. Avellana who was ready to give a helping hand in the realization of our special film project. He offered his services for free! Despite his enthusiastic support, however, the historical epic remained unproduced.

But, I cherish my memorable collaboration with film great Lino Brocka at the height of his artistry and passion. And I treasure the excellence of "Ina Ka Ng Anak Mo," our solitary project that did get produced, shown and appreciated by the Filipino viewing public.



JACKSON. Acts with tongue firmly in cheek.

'Snakes' delivers on cheap thrills

By Noelani Torre

YES, THERE ARE INDEED SNAKES on a plane in "Snakes on a Plane." The movie also has Samuel L. Jackson, and when you combine the actor's super-cool presence with the two aforesaid elements—not to mention that marvelously pithy title—well, you can just imagine what kind of movie you're going to get.

Which is exactly what legions of Internet blogger fans did the year before the movie's actual release. That is, they heard about the film with the snappy title, as well as Jackson's involvement in it, and proceeded to play around with the idea until the whole thing spilled out from cyberspace into the real world.

In fact, they got so hyped up over it that the powers that be at New Line decided to take some of their suggestions to heart and actually re-shot and added some scenes.

These fans are the ones responsible for the film's catchiest catchphrase, care of the famously bad-mouthed Mr. Jackson: "I have had it with these mother*#%$# snakes on this mother*#%$# plane!" Oh, yeah.

Catchy title

If you don't know diddly-squat about this whole Internet brouhaha (which was so major it more or less became the film's sole marketing campaign), there's no reason to worry. Despite fears to the contrary, there's more to "Snakes on a Plane" than a catchy title (which also encapsulates its catchy premise), a bad-ass star, and clever publicity. There is actually a movie underneath all the hype, and it can stand alone pretty well on its own two feet, er, scales.

If you haven't got it by now, the movie really is about snakes on a plane. It does have a story of sorts that tries to justify the concept, though. The plot, which sounds like an amalgamation of those Thursday night B-movie reruns during the '80s, goes like this: Surfer dude in Hawaii (Nathan Phillips) witnesses LA crime lord (Byron Lawson) bludgeoning a state prosecutor to death. He's convinced by the FBI (Jackson as Agent Neville Flynn) to turn witness for the prosecution, and is cannily shipped to LA—not on a government plane, but on a commercial jet. Alas, not cannily enough!

Crime lord gets wind of the plan, and forms one of his own—bomb on plane? Hell, no. Snakes on a plane! To be specific, *hundreds* of venomous serpents from all over the world smuggled into the cargo hold and sprayed with pheromones to make them mad. (Jackson lets loose with another catchy line when his character finds out: "Great, snakes on crack!")

Holes

The story is as riddled with as many holes as your typical toon Swiss cheese, but do you care? No, you don't. Because you're not watching a movie called "Snakes on a Plane" for a great storyline—you're watching it for its cheap thrills. There are a lot of those, by the way, but there'll be no spoilers here.

Suffice it to say that the snakes will be coming out of some surprising places, going into orifices, and latching onto appendages you wouldn't want them latching onto—especially if you're in the bathroom taking a leak!

The movie's pure dumb fun, but fun. Jackson has his big, bad federal agent down pat, smoothly riding over all the silliness. Also playing it effectively straight is Julianna Margulies as a competent flight attendant.

The rest of the cast play caricatures—big boozing lady, mother with child, semi-gay flight attendant, rich girl with chihuahua, germ-phobic rapper with bodyguards—but, they're better that way.

You don't really want to hear their back stories. Or, if you do, only so that you can laugh at their sheer triteness.

And you *will* laugh. "Snakes on a Plane" is as much a comedy as it is a thriller.

50th anniversary of the year America was all shook up by Elvis

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE—FIFTY YEARS ago, as Elvis Presley was about to make his first appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show" TV variety show, Helen Kreis was staring at the television screen, barely able to contain her teenage excitement.

Then, her father pulled the plug.

"He was just joking, but before he could get it plugged back in, I was next door at the neighbor's house. They were watching Elvis, of course, and I wasn't taking any chances," said the now 65-year-old Kreis, of Olney, Maryland.

"Everybody was watching Elvis."

TV audience

Well, maybe not everybody, but *nearly* everyone in America who had a TV had tuned in. Presley's first of three appearances on Sullivan's show, on Sept. 9, 1956, drew 60 million viewers—more than 80 percent of the national TV audience.

It was the high point in the year 1956 that was the defining period for Presley's move from regional celebrity to national icon, and it created one of the first great moments in the history of American pop culture.

"This was a chance for him to prove himself to the country," said Andrew Solt, producer of an upcoming set of DVDs marking the 50th anniversary of Presley's appearances on the "Sullivan" show.

Elvis fans from around the world are in Memphis for the annual remembrance of his death in 1977, and many still remember the year Elvis lit up American televisions.

"Other singers just stood there and sang, and then all of a sudden, you've got this guy up there going all over the place," said Diane Adams, 68, of Florence, South Carolina.

In those days, few homes had more than one television, so millions of star-struck teenagers watched the show with their parents, making the Elvis experience a family event and giving parents a look at what all the hoopla was about.

PRESLEY. Always nevrous when he went on stage.

By today's standards, Presley looked tame on that first "Sullivan" show in his plaid jacket and opened-neck shirt. He was cool, for sure, with a sly, curled-lip smile, but hardly threatening.

Wide appeal

Presley had already been on national TV several times in 1956, before Sullivan had him on. But, none of the earlier programs carried Sullivan's wide appeal and all-American stamp of approval.

Presley's first No. 1 hit, "Heartbreak Hotel," came out in January 1956, and his first album, also a charttopper, was released in March. As his fame grew, so did the vigor of his critics, who saw Presley as an over-sexed enchanter leading American teenagers to ruin.

But, when Sullivan praised him as a "decent, fine boy," much of the storm began to subside. The praise came at the end of Presley's final show on Jan. 6, 1957, when he was shown from the waist up only.

Presley's first six TV appearances were on "Stage Show," hosted by Jimmy and Tommy Dorsey.

Criticism

Following his appearance on "Milton Berle," Presley was savaged by critics who described his leg-shaking, hip-swiveling performance as "noxious" and his singing "caterwauling." Often, the criticism had a racist edge, since Elvis was singing what was considered "black music."

Allen vowed to keep Presley under control. He put the future king of rock 'n' roll onstage dressed in a tuxedo and singing his yet-to-be-recorded "Hound Dog" to a basset hound. Presley was not pleased, and referred to the hound as "that damn dog," said Gordon Stoker of the Jordanaires, the quartette that backed Presley for almost 15 years.

Describing Presley as "not my cup of tea," Sullivan had vowed not to have him on his show. But when Allen's ratings went through the roof, Sullivan had a sudden change of heart.

He paid Presley the unheard of sum of $50,000 for the three shows. Presley got $1,200 each for his first TV performances and $7,500 for the Allen show.

Make or break

Presley believed the "Sullivan" show could make or break his career, Stoker said. He was nervous and did not want to feel alone on stage.

"He had us stand just as close to him as we could stand," Stoker said. "We were so close that, when he would move back, he would step on our toes."

Presley died on Aug. 16, 1977, at age 42 after years of prescription-drug abuse. The cause of death was given as heart disease.*AP*

Marvin Agustin has never been busier

By Jocelyn Valle

ALTHOUGH HIS PLANS TO STAR IN AND coproduce "Donsol," an entry to the recently concluded Cinemalaya indie film fest, didn't push through, Marvin Agustin remains optimistic about getting into movie production someday. "If the right project comes along," he points out.

Acting gigs

More acting gigs and other business opportunities poured in at the start of the year, after his management contract with ABS-CBN expired. He's now being managed by Orly Ilacad's OctoArts Films.

After guesting on various GMA-7 shows, Marvin played the male lead in "I Luv New York." On the other hand, his latest film, "Oh, My Ghost," which reunites him with his "Super B" leading lady, Rufa Mae Quinto, is still showing. He's also wrapping up work on Star Cinema's next horror flick, "Wag Kang Lilingon." Then, he'll start shooting "Short Time," OctoArts' entry to the December film fest.

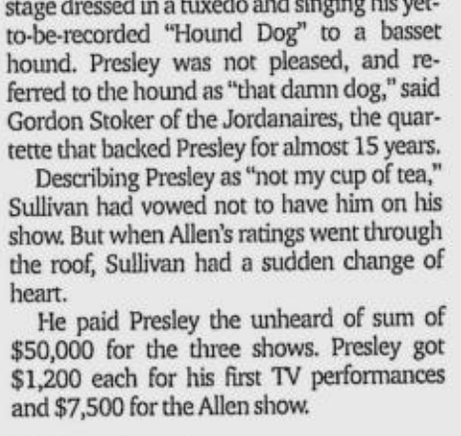
He has yet to see "Donsol," but he's glad he was able to catch a screening of Jeffrey Jeturian's "Kubrador." "I liked it very much," he gushes. "In the near future, I'd like to do something like that."

Meanwhile, Marvin continues to thrive in mainstream entertainment fare—and in the restaurant business (he's involved in the management of *five* food establishments, the latest of which is the Ten Titas Café at Gateway in Araneta Center).

Doting dad

The busy actor is also a loving son (he looks after his father, who's rebuilding his life after serving time in prison) and a doting dad to twin boys, Santiago and Sebastian, who turned one year old last Aug.15.

Next on Agustin's plate is a college degree, which he wishes to pursue either at the Ateneo (Communication Arts) or UP (Associated Arts). He admits to being inspired by Sharon Cuneta's laudable pursuit of higher education. Marvin confides, "Just like Sharon, I've always wanted to finish school!"



AGUSTIN. Determined to finish college.

PUSSYCAT DOLLS. Break from musical monotony.

MADONNA. Goes back to her disco roots.

BACKSTREET BOYS. More grown-up sound.

Pop hits compilation features comeback bids

By Noelani Torre

IF YOU'VE BEEN TURNING YOUR RADIO ON during the past two years, then you will no doubt be familiar with most of the songs in the pop hits compilation, "Bigger." However, if you haven't been listening to the radio or watching TV recently, the album's 19 tracks will bring you up to date with what's been going on in the mainstream music scene.

First, there are the comebacks. One such revival is opening track, "It's Like That," from Mariah Carey's newest album, "The Emancipation of Mimi." The "best-selling female performer of the 1990s" wasn't quite as hot a property after the turn of the century, what with her public breakdowns and cringe-worthy side projects (remember "Glitter"?).

Successors

She rallied with the release of "The Emancipation of Mimi" last year. Despite its more-than-respectable sales, however, the album can't quite equal the heights that her previous releases achieved—because, as evinced by "It's Like That," she tries too hard to sound like her numerous, younger successors—but only ends up sounding forgettable.

The second track, "Hung Up," from Madonna's 2005 release, "Confessions On a Dance Floor," doesn't really qualify as a comeback, because this particular star has never been out of the spotlight since she first maneuvered herself into it. The entire album does feature Madonna going back to her disco roots, and sounding much better than she did on her previous outing, "American Life."

The ultimate comeback in this collection would have to be the Backstreet Boys, with "Incomplete," from their first album in five years, "Never Gone." Despite the album's title, this one-time all-powerful pop quintet has indeed been gone, but not, as this record's existence proves, for good. Whether you think that's good or bad is a matter of taste. Though, to be fair, they do sound more grown-up now.

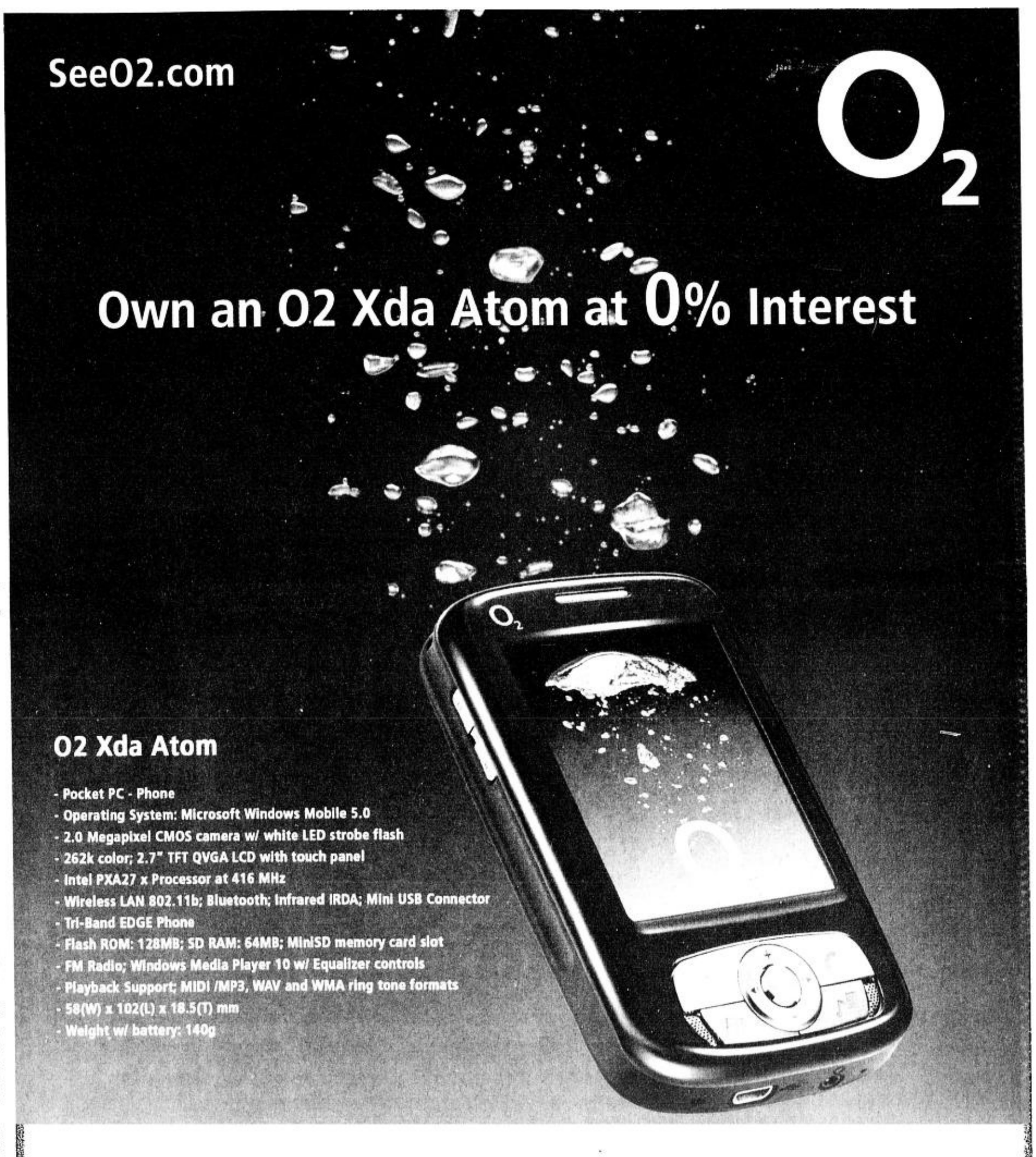
A contemporary of theirs also makes an appearance in the collection with "Do Something." Taken from pop-culture icon, Britney Spears' "Greatest Hits: My Prerogative," the song is a puzzling choice, not being one of Spears' stronger tracks.

Ubiquitous

The rest of the selection is pretty predictable, though you'll find some not-quite-pop numbers here and there that will give you a break from the monotony. You'll hear the Pussycat Dolls' ubiquitous "Don't Cha" yet again, as well as other oft-played (aka *gasgas*) numbers like Rob Thomas' "Lonely No More"; Michael Bublé's "Home"; James Blunt's "You're Beautiful"; Daniel Powter's "Bad Day"; Simple Plan's "Untitled" (or "How Could This Happen To Me?"), and Green Day's "Wake Me Up When September Ends."

Why they picked this last song over Green Day's kick-ass "American Idiot" is anybody's guess. It's also a shame that Akon's far-from-brilliant "Lonely" makes the cut, instead of the more compelling "Locked Up."

CAREY. Tries too hard to sound like her younger successors.



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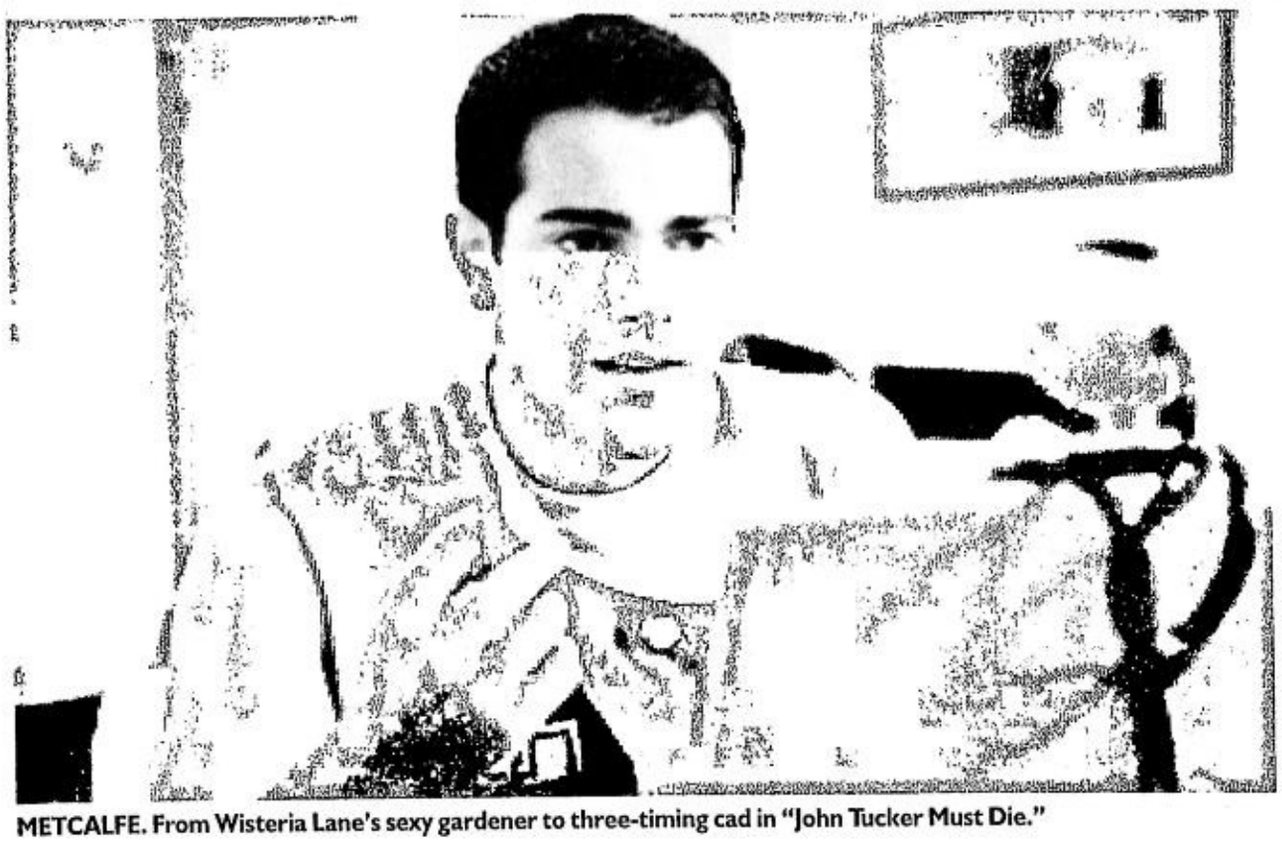
New talents get their chance to shine

By Nestor U. Torre



METCALFE. From Wisteria Lane's sexy gardener to three-timing cad in "John Tucker Must Die."

AFTER PLAYING A GARDENER WHO'S caught with his pants down in "Desperate Housewives," Jesse Metcalfe is getting his big movie break in "John Tucker Must Die," where he plays a goodlooking cad who shamelessly romances three young women at the same time. The big comeuppance happens when his three victims decide to teach him a lesson he won't forget.

For stardom's sake

So, should all TV wannabes drop their trousers in hopes of being discovered for the movies? Uh, show biz doesn't really work that way. The entertainment scrap heap is littered with the bare bodies—and bottoms—of starlets who've gone butt-naked for stardom's sake—only to remain as unheralded as ever.

MILBY. Plays yet another *balikbayan* in his first lead role.

On the local show biz scene, new stars are "in," so our TV channels have been trotting them out on a fairly regular basis these days, mostly as leads of new soap or *komiks*-style series.

In "Super-Inggo," the new child star is Makisig Morales, who first made his mark on the boob tube as a singing champion. In his new series, however, he goes more physical, as a phlegmatic kid who is transformed into a superhero.

For his part, Matt Evans was introduced to viewers as a "Pinoy Big Brother Teen Edition" housemate, but has now come into his own as a solo lead. He's been tapped to portray the title role in the new series, "Komiks Presents Da Adventures of Pedro Penduko."

On the big screen, Pedro was played by Janno Gibbs, and Matt appears to be a good choice for the part, because he comes across as boyishly venturesome as Janno did some years ago.

Lead role

In fact, lanky and bushy-topped Matt is like a *tisoy Pinoy* version of Huckleberry Finn, and he should disarm viewers with his aw-shucks performance in his first lead role.

As for Sam Milby, the forever-smiling *balikbayan* is getting his big movie break, along with co-star Toni Gonzaga, in the imminent production, "You Are the One."

Sam plays a US Embassy employee who turns down Toni's application for a visa, thus infuriating her in a big way. As everybody familiar with romantic-comedy "tradition" knows, that's a veritable formula for love on the rebound. And that's exactly what transpires in "You Are The One," except that Sam's character appears to have a cold, cold heart. Not to worry, though, his leading lady should warm him up long before the final fade—and smooch.

We know that Sam has become local show biz's flavor of the month, and he's entitled to success both as actor and singer. But, we must confess that we aren't thrilled that, due to his problems with Tagalog, he's playing yet another *balikbayan* character in his first lead role on the big screen.

Careers

Why, oh, why can't Fil-Ams first learn to speak Filipino well *before* they launch their careers here? Have a heart.

It would also help if Sam wouldn't smile so much, and so relentlessly! We know that he's known for his fabulous smile, but after grinning at us seemingly nonstop for months, you'd think that his mouth muscles would be really sore by now.

So, it's really A-OK for him to (*please*) stop smiling for a change, because when it comes to flashing all those pearly whites, a little goes a really long, long way . . .

Anyway, lots of luck—and pluck—to all of our new leads, and may they be here to stay!

EVANS. Boyishly venturesome. RODEL ROTONI

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SATURDAY Special

Top stars' defining moments recalled

CARICATURE BY STEPH BRAVO

AUNOR. Subverted the deeply-ingrained colonial-minded *tisoy* fetish that hobbled local show biz for decades.

By Nestor U. Torre

HOW DO STARS COME into their own as charismatic screen presences whose performances are more than the sum of their parts, and go on to vivify viewers' deepest or most passionate needs and longings?

From time to time in their careers, they startle their fans with radical image shifts that end up as major defining moments in their growth as stars and performers.

These key adjustments or outright transformations are especially needed by stars whose careers last longer than a decade. It's hard enough sustaining the viewing public's adulation for a couple of years, so 10 years or longer is a tall order. Small wonder, then, that most performers lose their stellar sheen long before that all-important landmark.

Admiration

So, the few stars who "reign" for 10 or 20 years truly deserve our admiration. How do they go the daunting distance? Through sheer dint of talent, charisma, versatility—and those occasional defining, or *re*defining, moments.

Take Dolphy. Some viewers feel that after more than 50 years on the screen, he's overstayed his welcome. But, his sheer longevity is amazing to behold, and is the result of occasional career tweaks that have perked up his role possibilities.

Dolphy first made his mark as the gay counterpart of Lolita Rodriguez's *tomboy* character in Sampaguita Pictures' "Jack En Jill," and his gay persona was such a hit that it has remained one of his staples to this day.

Mileage

But, every decade or so, he would do new characters that were trendy at the time: A spoof of James Bond, a retardate, a *Pinoy* Everyman (John Purruntong), etc.

He's also gotten a lot of mileage from his singing and dancing talents, his ability to work well with former sidekick, Panchito, and his penchant for hosting musical-variety shows on TV.

Image

For Nora Aunor, her choice of performing image was dictated by her fans, who embraced her impoverished, *kawawa* projection—those expressive,

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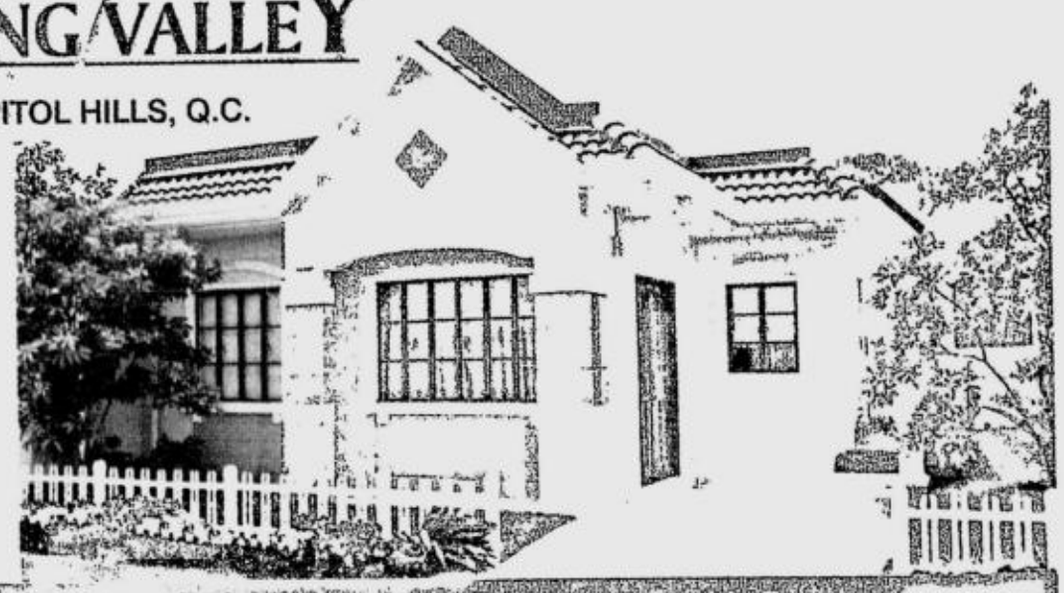

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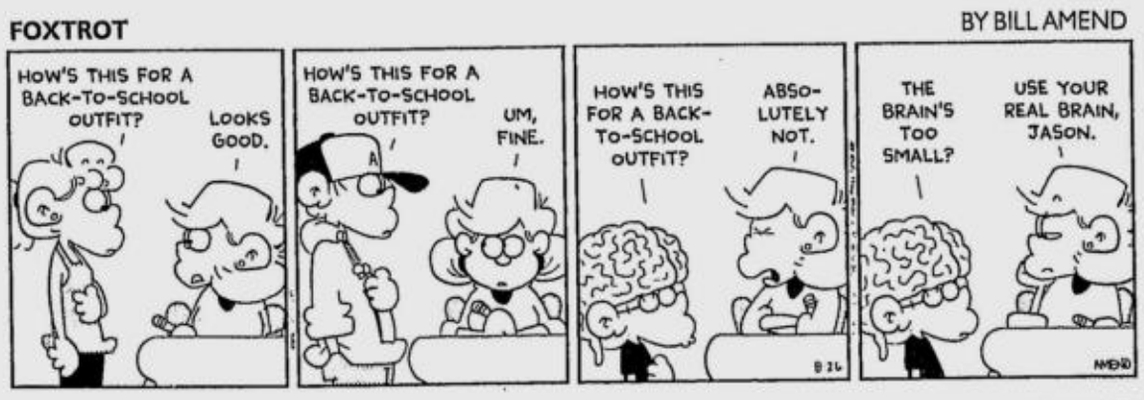

A. LIPIN

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BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY

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ATOMO AND WEBOY

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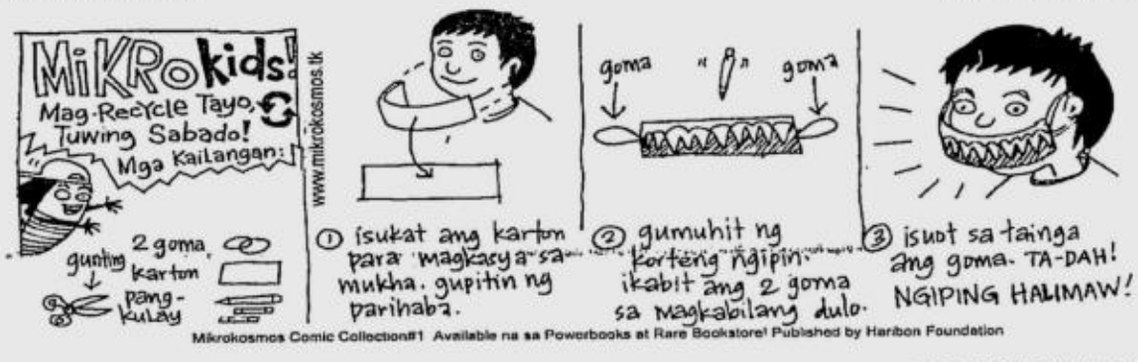

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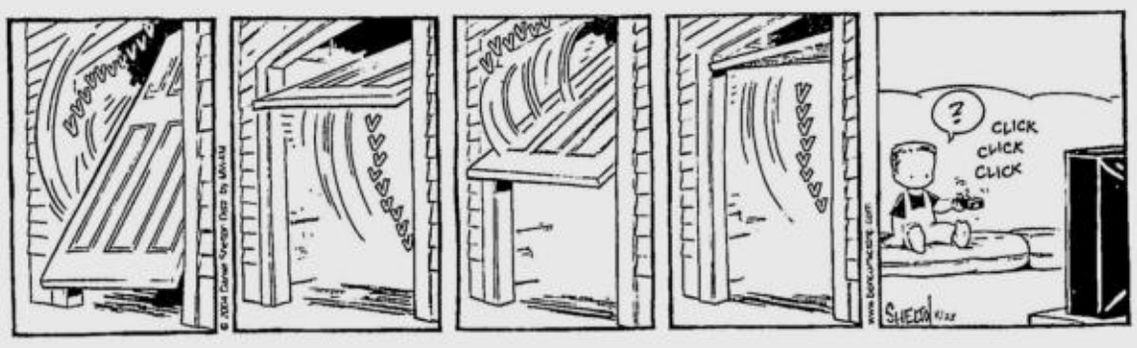

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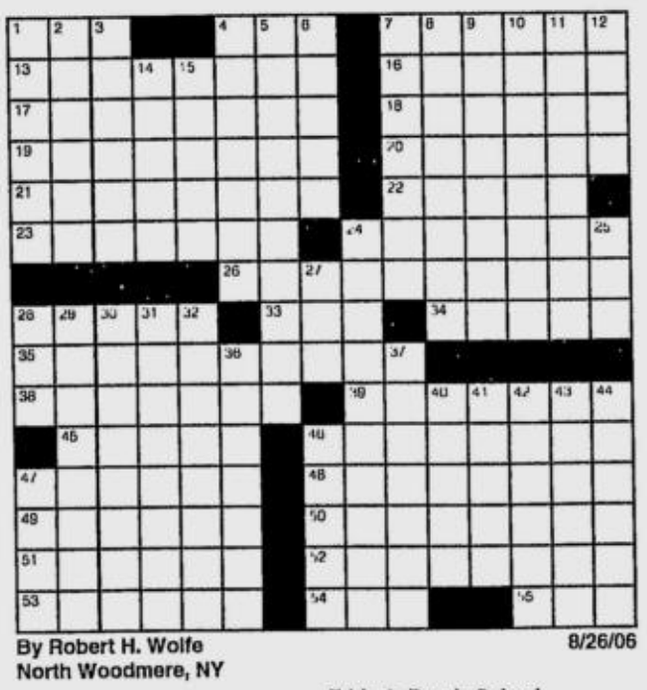
ACROSS
1 Therapeutic resort
4 Russ. jetfighter
7 Zero of "The Producers"
13 One of Rome's seven hills
16 Entrance to Hades
17 Mythological female runner
18 Makes roof repairs
19 Light verse poet: var.
20 Audience shouts
21 Noisy pigs
22 Boutonniere's place
23 Part of EST
24 Brings to mind
26 Not a main thoroughfare
28 Prongs
33 Red or Black
34 Throat infection, in brief
35 Rink denizens
38 Some hunting dogs
39 Systematic procedure
45 Milk not to cry over?
46 View of a wide area
47 Meatpacking company
48 Twists together
49 Fly
50 Ways out
51 Right-hand pages
52 Close by
53 Grooms like a cat
54 '60s radical grp.
55 Defunct pol. entity

DOWN
1 Meager
2 Copper coating
3 Cottonwood trees
4 Coin makers
5 Certain physicians
6 Transmission components
7 Old playground game
8 Chews the scenery
9 Single out
10 Voyager
11 Signer-upper
12 Profit's opposite
14 Warning signal
15 Refinement
24 Put in a different order
25 The Racer's Edge
27 Ruby of "A Raisin in the Sun"
28 "__ the wind and nothing more"
29 Freezes, like a lake
30 Cost after deductions
31 Approximation
32 Anatomy lab figure
36 Lacking gulle
37 Nissan models
40 One of the Champions
41 March 17th celebrants
42 Parsonages
43 Muslim VIPs: var.
44 Former Egyptian leader
46 Parts of hammers
47 Stringed instrument with seven pedals



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

8/26/06

Friday's Puzzle Solved

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Birthdate of: Christopher Columbus, explorer; Macaulay Culkin, actor; Guillaume Apollinaire, essayist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You're willing to take on the responsibilities of caring for or working with children today. Similarly, you're willing to take on the lion's share with respect to working to entertain others.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You can make improvements to the appearance of where you live today. You're willing to work hard to do this. Basically, you're inspired by practical concerns.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is not an easy day to talk to siblings and relatives. You might feel a bit lonesome, and yet you don't know how to bridge the gap. Fortunately, this feeling is gone by tomorrow!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Money concerns make you feel financially conservative today. You don't want to spend money on anything frivolous. Heavens no! All purchases must be practical and long-lasting.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel quite somber in all your love relationships. Somehow it's not easy to express affection today. That's OK. Use today's energy to work hard.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You are best served by working behind the scenes today. That's where you want to be. You don't feel flashy and confident. You just want to get the job done. (That's fine.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Someone older has some good advice for you. You might not want to take it. (That's your choice.) But you certainly have nothing to lose by listening.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): It's easy to put duty and obligations before pleasure today. You might even be temporarily separated from someone. Choose routine, detailed work. You will excel at it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a good day to finalize travel plans or work with details connected with publishing and the media. You will get a lot done.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): How to divide something that is shared among others is a serious prospect today. You don't feel casual about this. That's why you're the perfect person to do the job.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is not an easy day to work with others. Relationships are strained. Knowing this, don't even go there. Work by yourself as much as you can.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You'll find it easy to do boring, detailed, routine work today. You have that kind of practical mind-set. You might as well use this while it's here!

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

		4	3	7	2	6		
	1						5	
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		2	6	5	9	1		
		5	1	3	8	9		
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Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/26

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	7	2	1	8	9	4	5	6
6	9	8	7	5	4	3	1	2
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Difficulty Level ★★★★

Toni Braxton juggles motherhood and music

WASHINGTON—At the start of her recent tour, it had been nearly 10 years since Toni Braxton has performed in a concert. She had a new album and plenty to talk about—but the first thing she mentioned was how fans at her first show in Atlantic City, New Jersey, almost got more of her than they bargained for.

Braxton said she left the stage for a quickie costume change. But, in the eight seconds allotted to swap outfits, she forgot something: Her panties. She was about to head back on stage wearing "just pantyhose and a top" when an alert member of the stage crew caught the *faux pas*.

Comfortable

The incident, and the fact that she seems comfortable telling on herself within the first minute of an interview, gives one the sense that Braxton is, quite literally, comfortable in her skin.

She acknowledges the days when she can pose nearly nude for Vibe magazine are long gone, or wear the kind of dress she did at the 2001 Grammys (with a deep, plunging neckline and the top half strategically held up by double-sided tape).

But, at age 38, she's still not shy about wearing clothes that offer a glimpse of thigh here, or a little cleavage there—even with her family in the audience.

Opening act

Braxton is now married to Keri Lewis (former keyboardist for Mint Condition, her current opening act), and they have two children, Denim, five, and Diezel, two. Two of her sisters, Tamar and Trina, are working as backup singers and dancers.

What's it like juggling family and stardom?

"Challenging," Braxton says. "It's been hard, I can't deny it, 'cause I'm a hands-on mom, who's really involved with my kids and their day-to-day activities."

Now that she's on the road, she laments that she "can't be as involved."

Surveillance skills

Don't tell that to Denim. Braxton and her husband installed cameras in all the rooms of their house, so she can monitor the kids on the Internet when she's away. Sometimes, she catches Denim letting the family dog out of its cage and calls him on the phone to tell him to stop. Because of her surveillance skills, she jokingly says of her son: "He definitely believes in God!"

BRAXTON. Her fans almost got more than they bargained for.

Braxton knows that with many of today's stars at least a decade younger than her, she has to tour to maintain her career. She's known for hits like "Breathe Again," "Seven Whole Days" and "Love Shoulda Brought You Home." But, while her fans love her songs, she has mixed emotions about some—like "Seven Whole Days."

Album filler

"Hated it!," says Braxton. In fact, she says of the sigh after the lyric "seven whole nights": "I did that to be smart."

On the other hand, she says that, while she loved "Another Sad Love Song," Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds "only thought it was OK" and considered it an album filler until it became one of her first hits.

Braxton says she doesn't feel pressure to keep up with younger singers who have come along since 1992, when she first hit the scene. While she's added a pinch or two of hip-hop flavor to her music over the years, her style usually appeals to adult contemporary audiences.

Sometimes, a little too much.

Braxton says she's often asked to sing at weddings of friends and family members. She usually tells them: "You don't want me to sing at your wedding," because her big hits are what she calls "happy-sad love songs." As she put it, desperate-for-love ballads like "Unbreak My Heart" and "Breathe Again" are "not a good sound for weddings!"

Even in "You Mean the World to Me," she notes, she tells her man to give her one good reason to believe his lies. She credits Babyface with writing lyrics that make heartbreak songs sound almost like the kind you might want to hear at your own wedding.

While a master at singing about broken hearts, it was a physical problem with her heart that gave her a scare recently.

Just after her second child was born, she returned to work on the Broadway show, "Aida." She came down with a case of pericarditis, an inflammation of the heart caused by a virus.

Problem

Though she now dismisses the scare as just "a big ol' mess," she says when she heard the problem involved her heart, she thought about the movie, "Beaches"—and feared she'd be like the Barbara Hershey character, who dies.

Now, she paces herself while on tour. Every once in awhile, she might feel a little flutter, but she declares herself "100 percent fine!" *AP*

Top stars' defining moments . . .

From page G1

SANTOS. Remains a bankable luminary to this day.

"pleading" eyes!—and her dramatically textured singing voice with unprecedented enthusiasm and empathy.

Popular

In fact, Nora became so unexpectedly, amazingly popular that, all by her lonesome, she subverted the deeply-ingrained, colonial-minded "*tisoy*" fetish that hobbled the local show biz for decades.

Then, again to her her credit, Nora turned out to be much more than just the country's first Superstar, and was honed by top directors into a really exceptional actress.

In fact, the star became so committed to excellence (even as she kept coming up with her profitable potboilers) that she produced some really fine movies with her own money.

These days, of course, Nora is regarded by many as a has-been. But, we believe that she still has some great performances left in her, and we wouldn't be surprised if she comes in from the cold for the umpteenth time, and surprises and delights viewers with another major defining career moment before she folds her thespic tents!

Our final example of astute career management is provided by Vilma Santos. She started out as a child star, and survived the usual adolescent slump by continuing to work as a subteen star.

First major test

Her first major test came when Nora ruled over local show biz, consigning Vilma to the unenviable role of constantly playing second fiddle to the Superstar.

Very cannily, Vilma opted to radically change her image, and decided to play the more adult, forthright and even sexy roles that were beyond Nora's ken.

Vilma's next big test came when her career suffered financial reverses. But, the plucky and disciplined star was able to survive that ordeal as well, and became the bankable luminary she remains to this day.

Of course, she's also become much more than just show biz "royalty," and has succeeded as a politician as well. Will that turn out to be a Defining Moment for All Seasons, or will Vilma soon decide to focus on her show-biz career again?

Whatever she opts to do, we can bet that she definitely won't bore us as she does it, as she continues to redefine her persona for our pleasure, and for her own psychic satisfaction!

DOLPHY. His sheer professional longevity is amazing to behold.

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Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 1018, series of 2006

Sharp mind. Active body.

Gary Valenciano, 23 years later

VALENCIANO. Cool dad.

By Jocelyn Valle

IT'S EASY TO SPOT Gary Valenciano even in the dark. During a break while shooting the music video for the remix of his '80s hit, "Wag Mo Na Sanang Isipin," you can still feel Gary's energy and enthusiasm even as he waits inside Music Museum for the shoot to resume.

Back-up vocals

"I'm coaching Kiana how to do her part," says Gary, referring to his daughter, who provides back-up vocals in the track culled from his latest album, "Relevance."

The singer is a cool stage father. He shares: "We're very open with each other. I even shout the names of her crushes. Her brothers are more protective of her."

Kiana, 13, is Gary and Angeli's youngest child. Unlike her brothers, Paolo and Gabriel—who have more experience in show business—Kiana, her dad says, is still testing the waters.

"I don't want to push her until she's ready," he points out. "But, she dances and plays the piano and guitar. She's taken workshops with Trumpets. When she turns 16 or 17, maybe she'll know if she really wants to take show biz seriously."

Concert series

Kiana is more than happy to work with her father from time to time. Aside from recording "'Wag Mo na Sanang Isipin," she appears in Gary's concert series, "Gary @ 23," at Music Museum all Thursdays and Fridays of August and September.

Latest videos

The concert chronicles Valenciano's ascent to musical stardom. Mr. Pure Energy feels he's come full circle, especially since Paul Soriano, who's directing his latest videos, is the son of his director (Jeric Soriano) in 1984's "Hotshots." He claims: "There's no generation gap between us."

Gary is keeping his fingers crossed for the family drama that Erik Matti is slated to direct. It will feature him with sons, Paolo and Gabriel. He adds: "It was supposed to be shown during Father's Day this year, but because of schedule problems, we couldn't start filming the project. But, there's always next year."

Brad Pitt finds 'true joy' in fatherhood

NEW YORK—BRAD PITT SAYS being a father has changed his priorities.

"Man, I got kids now," the 42-year-old actor said in an interview that aired recently on NBC's "Today" show. "It completely changes your perspective—and certainly takes the focus off yourself, which I'm grateful for."

Pitt is working with Global Green USA, a national environmental organization, on a competition to choose ecologically sound designs for rebuilding neighborhoods in post-Hurricane Katrina New Orleans.

Fortunate life

Recently, he got his first up-close look at the devastation that remains a year after the disaster. "I've had my day," Pitt said. "I made some good films, and I've had a fortunate life. It's time to share my blessings."

Pitt and his partner, Angelina Jolie, have three children, six-week-old Shiloh, 18-month-old Zahara, and four-year-old Maddox. Jolie, 31, has traveled the globe as a UN goodwill ambassador.

"I'm tired of thinking about myself—I'm kinda sick of myself," said Pitt, who was nominated for an Oscar for his role in 1995's "Twelve Monkeys." His screen credits also include "Mr. & Mrs. Smith" with Jolie, "Legends of the Fall," and the upcoming "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford."

Most extraordinary

He said being a parent is "a true joy." "Being a father is the best thing I ever did," he said. "You can write a book, make a movie, draw and paint, but having kids is really the most extraordinary thing I've ever taken on."

"And, if I can get a burp out of that baby, that little thing," said Pitt, referring to daughter Shiloh, "I'll feel such a sense of accomplishment." *AP*

PITT. Sense of accomplishment.

Short celebrities, great careers

By Behn Cervantes

HOLLYWOOD stars are always perceived to be "bigger than life": The men are tall, dark and handsome; the women statuesque and curvaceous. They're a breed all their own, it would seem.

However, producers have discovered early on that there is such a thing as the "X" factor, a quality that combines sex appeal and charisma. Those who have it don't necessarily fit into the usual stereotype—they're simply exciting actors who ignite the screen.

Attention

Sometimes, they're short and not conventionally good-looking. But, they are very talented: They grab the attention of movie fans, who see something in them above the ordinary.

For example, how could the short and portly Edward G. Robinson hold his own against tall, dark and handsome actors like Cary Grant or Gregory Peck? And how could the diminutive Paul Muni stand his ground against John Wayne? But, Robinson and Muni did.

Nevertheless, in the early years, Hollywood's publicists tried to maintain the notion that its box-office draws were veritable deities, so they kept the stars' "limitations" secret:

Tough guy Alan Ladd hardly ever towered over his leading ladies. To look more dominant, Ladd often stood on an apple box. When he co-starred with the statuesque Sophia Loren, the production's grips dug a ditch—so the 5'8" beauty could walk beside Ladd on ground level!

Apple box

Ingrid Bergman stood 5'91/2". She looked great beside Gary Cooper or Gregory Peck. But, when she acted with the sexy but short Charles Boyer, the latter's "stature" was also raised using an apple box.

In the era of silent films, many actresses were tiny: Gloria Swanson, despite her huge appeal and screen impact, was barely 5' tall. Myrna Loy and Lilian Gish were also diminutive. Claudette Colbert herself was dwarfed by Clark Gable in the classic comedy, "It Happened One Night."

Six-footer Gable towered over Vivien Leigh in "Gone With the Wind." Leigh, who was barely 5' tall, held her own against Gable—she even won an Academy Award for her performance, while a disappointed Clark went home empty-handed.

PACINO AND TAYLOR. Lack of height is no hindrance to stardom.

Matinee idols

Tyrone Power, Tony Curtis and other matinee idols often added extra inches to their published height. Dustin Hoffman and Al Pacino, however, never had to lie about their height because they're among Tinseltown's most talented actors. And, lest we forget, there's Mickey Rooney, too.

The legendary Elizabeth Taylor is 5'2", although her publicists have long claimed her to be 5'4". Despite her lack of height, however, Liz had great beauty, talent and charisma. —Who needs to be tall?!

Preserving heritage

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

THE INTENTION OF OUR EXhibit, "Batanes and Other Destinations," is to contribute to the Batanes Heritage Foundation's intention to preserve the province's indigenous houses, a vernacular architecture that exemplifies astute environmental design.

The beauty of the place is legendary, but the Ivatans' rich heritage is not known to the rest of the world.

By helping the Ivatans maintain their stone houses and building techniques, we are safeguarding a way of life and culture.

Exhibit

On exhibit at the North Court of Rockwell's Power Plant Mall are 30 pictures taken in Batanes, including 10 blowup prints from other destinations. The exhibit runs until tomorrow.

We will auction off the winning photos, and the event will be hosted by Johnny Litton. Judges are Eric Torres, Eggie Apostol, Lorraine Belmonte, Patrick de Koenigswarter and Lilen Uy. Julie Y. Daza is guest exhibitor.

The minimum cost to restore a damaged stone house is P150,000. The first company to help us in this project is San Miguel Corp. There are 1,250 stone houses that BHFI is trying to save.

Our photo exhibit will hopefully mark the beginning of a sustained effort to save an important part of our local heritage.

Join us launch this worthwhile endeavor. Email bhfi_pi@yahoo.com. For those interested to join our Batanes Photo Safari next year, email mandynavasero@yahoo.com.

INDIGENOUS stone houses exemplify astute environmental design.

'Breaking Free' and 'Martyr Nyebera' are must-see music videos

By Rica Arevalo

WHO SAYS MUSIC VIDEOS ARE only for hip-hop fans, love-struck couples and hard-core rockers? They also cater to kids. Take the case of the Asian version of "Breaking Free," sung by Vince Chong, Alicia Pan and our very own Nikki Gil.

Disney's made-for-TV movie, "High School Musical," tells the story of a prolific basketball star and a nerdy student who challenge the school's status quo by auditioning for the school's musical production.

Clips

In the video, we see Chong, Pan and Gil singing, while clips of the film are shown. No matter how simple the video is, the hopeful song is a sure winner!

Another music video worth watching is Kamikazee's "Martyr Nyebera" by Avid Liongoren. It has the look of "Moulin Rouge" and "Karate Kid"-like action sequences. This is one video where there is no "performance" by the band members.

Kung fu fighters

It's a straight narrative that shows Rica Peralejo alone in bed. She wakes up realizing that her husband (Ping Medina) is not at home. Furious, she looks for Medina in different places, as she faces off against different *kung fu* fighters.

The video is well-planned and action-packed, and makes you want to see more of Liongoren's expertise in animation and special effects.In a full-length film, perhaps?

"MARTYR NYEBERA." Action-packed.

Self-realization

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

IS SELF-REALIZATION POSSIble? Yes. By nature, we're self-realized beings. Unfortunately, material desires "stain" our existence. Like an oil spill that destroys the beauty and balance of the environment, material desires ruin our beautiful nature.

Meaningful

Here are meaningful quotes taken from the Bhagavad-gita on the subject of the self-realized soul and man's natural state:

"Arjuna said: 'What are the symptoms of someone whose consciousness is merged in transcendence? How does he speak, and what language does he use? How does he sit or walk?'

Satisfaction

"The Supreme Being said: 'When a man gives up desire, which arises from a psychological concoction, and when his mind finds satisfaction in the spiritual realm, he is in pure transcendental consciousness.

"One who is not disturbed by material misery, who's not elated when there's happiness, and who's free from attachment, fear and anger, is called a Sage of Steady Mind.

Success

"'He who is not attached to material things, who doesn't rejoice when he obtains success nor lament when he fails, is firmly knowledgeable. A person who's capable of withdrawing from sense objects is bathed in knowledge!'"

SATURDAY *Special*

CARICATURES BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

PAREDES. "Headmaster" of ABS-CBN's talent search.

CAYABYAB. One of three judges on ABC-5's singing tilt.

'Pinoy Dream Academy' threatens 'Philippine Idol's' lead

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN ABC-5 announced that it had gotten permission from the "American Idol" franchise to produce the hit singing search's local counterpart, the channel won important plus points with viewers.

The feat was a feather in its cap, and caused the relatively new channel to upstage the major TV networks, due to the popularity of the original US show.

Franchising coup

Of course, the majors couldn't be expected to take the franchising coup on the chin without trying to neutralize it.

Thus, it was no surprise when ABS-CBN in turn announced that it was developing its own franchise-based search for outstanding young singers, to be titled "Pinoy Dream Academy."

Instead of fast-tracking the start of the competition proper of its "Philippine Idol" show, however, ABC-5 continued to bide its time, telecasting a detailed coverage of its initial audition phases.

Despite its advantage in terms of time, it, in effect, allowed "Dream Academy" to catch up. So, as of this writing, we now have the strange spectacle of "Philippine Idol" still to announce its final 12 bets, while on Aug. 26, "Dream Academy" will start its contest proper after choosing its 16 scholars from 38 semifinalists.

More popular

Of course, the "Idol" franchise is more popular than the locally unseen and untested "Academy" format, so ABC-5 still has the advantage.

But, Channel 2's "Academy" format could in time prove to be even more viewable, because it combines its talent-search element with the "in-house" factor made popular locally by "Pinoy Big Brother."

In other words, viewers could get more personally involved with the "Academy's" singers because they would not just be seeing them perform, but also getting to know them really well as people, as they view them living in the Academy's house.

Contest proper

The current competition between the two talent tilts would not be so stiff if ABC-5 had made full use of its time advantage and initiated its own contest proper much earlier.

That way, viewers' involvement in "Philippine Idol" would have been strongly established by the time "Pinoy Dream Academy" launched its own process, thereby giving the ABC-5 show a distinct advantage.

Well, for one reason or other, that was not to be, so the two shows are presently competing for viewers' favor with similar persuasiveness.

Other possible points of departure could be the different mentors involved—"Idol" judges Ryan Cayabyab, Pilita Corrales and Francis M on one hand, and "Academy's" "headmaster," Jim Paredes and his "faculty" of performance area tutors on the other.

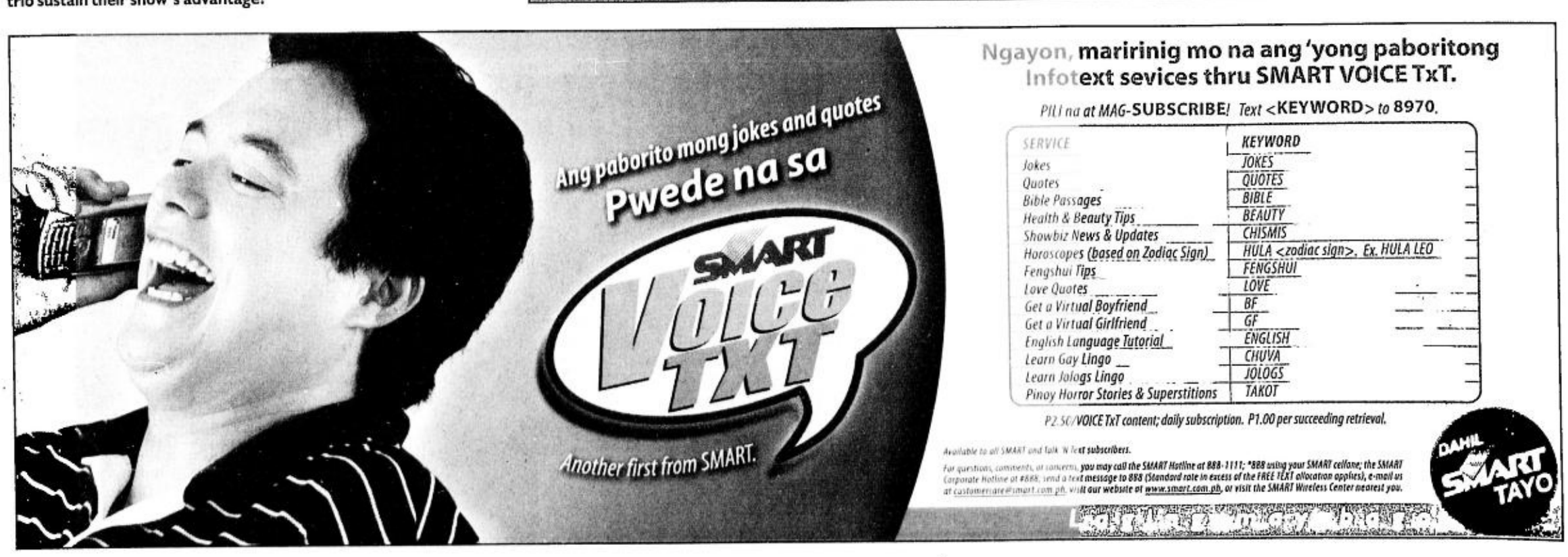
Maximum impact

How well will each team develop its own group of finalists for maximum impact and involvement on viewers' part? We'll have to keep watching both shows to find out the answer to that key question.

But, the biggest "X-factor" of all is the quality of the two shows' respective batches of talents. If more finalists in one show turn out to be clearly superior and charismatic singers and stars in the making, many more viewers would shift allegiance to that particular search.

So, the selection process is still key, and the "by their fruits shall we judge them" rule applies—yes, even in this all-out competition on national television of "Philippine Idol" versus "Pinoy Dream Academy."

MAGALONA, CORRALES AND CAYABYAB. Can the "judicious" trio sustain their show's advantage?



'AWIT NG PUSO'

Refreshing change of musical pace for Martin Nievera

NIEVERA. Crystal-clear voice.

By Rito P. Asilo

IN HIS LATEST ALBUM, "AWIT NG PUSO," MARTIN NIEVERA REVIsits the era that introduced him to the local music scene by waxing fresh renditions of mostly '80s OPM hits.

After a series of albums featuring covers of standards and old favorites, the balladeer takes a refreshing change of musical pace and flavor and, in most tracks, drops his trademark belting in favor of subtle crooning and sophisticated, lounge-style singing.

Vocally challenging

In vocally challenging tracks like Willy Cruz's "Kahit Na" and Cruz and Baby Gil's "Sana'y Maghintay ang Walang Hanggan," he delivers surprisingly sedate interpretations that lend more soul to the well-loved *Pinoy* pop classics. He revives Cecil Azarcon's "I Think I'm in Love" with a more upbeat, guitar-driven arrangement, although this version may alienate music fans who adore the Kuh Ledesma original for occasionally breaking the melodic form with its uniquely inventive new arrangement.

Most singers these days demonstrate vocal power through belting ability. While it's true that Martin has found fame for his awesome chest tones, it's also common knowledge that he doesn't have to resort to them to stay popular, after decades of being on top of the pop charts.

His early recording triumphs (Alvina Sy's "Pain," Vehnee Saturno's "Be My Lady") are proof of this. Nievera's voice remains crystal-clear even in the lower registers—which is why he sounds great even when singing the Nonoy Zuniga classic, "Love Without Time," a song for basses and baritones, and Jim Paredes' "When I Met You."

Elegiac earnestness

Martin is in top vocal form: His heavenly singing is on vivid display in his version of Piolo Pascual and Ogie Alcasid's "Kailangan Kita," which bristles with, yes, elegiac earnestness. Joey Benin's "I Believe in Dreams" is a dreamily-sung cover that touches with its child-like optimism.

It would have been nice to hear more upbeat numbers in the album, considering how rich OPM music was (in terms of variety, content and musicality) in the '80s—unless you're nursing a broken heart and enjoy wallowing in grief by listening to a dour-sounding track listing.

Other outstanding cuts include Louie Ocampo and Gina Godinez's "Closer You and I," popularized by Gino Padilla, and Gerry Paraiso's "You," which have become more lyrical in their new versions.

However, the best tracks in the album are Nievera's versions of the beautiful Rey Valera ditty, "Sinasamba Kita" and Paraiso's "Kailangan Ko, Kailangan Mo," Martin's duet with the ubiquitous Regine Velasquez.

Covers

These covers don't just bring nostalgia, they're aural demonstrations of how well-loved classics ought to be revived: Lovingly.

Martin may not be as busy as he used to be, but his voice and music continue to inspire and influence local music lovers who adore lyrical inventiveness and melodic schmaltz—and that's not such a bad thing in the midst of the musical clutter and noise of contemporary pop music.

Most of the songs in "Awit ng Puso," despite having been initially recorded more than two decades ago, are a breath of fresh air—and Martin's voice makes them sound even better!

VELASQUEZ. Sings remake of "Kailangan Ko, Kailangan Mo" with Martin.

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6 SNAKE ON A PLANE
7 KUBRADOR
8 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
9 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
10 MIAMI VICE
11 OH MY GHOST
12 STORMBREAKER
SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 LITTLE MAN
2 SUKOB
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 STORMBREAKER
SM CITY VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 LITTLE MAN
2 MIAMI VICE
3 SUKOB
4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 LITTLE MAN
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 SUKOB
4 SNAKE ON A PLANE
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LUZON
SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 STORMBREAKER
3 CLICK
4 LITTLE MAN
SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 LITTLE MAN
2 MIAMI VICE
3 SUKOB
4 OH MY GHOST
SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 KUBRADOR
2 CLICK
3 SNAKE ON A PLANE
4 OH MY GHOST
5 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
6 SUKOB
7 LITTLE MAN
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 CLICK
2 LITTLE MAN
3 ANT BULLY/JUST MY LUCK
4 SUKOB
SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 THE BREAK-UP
2 AMERICAN HAUNTING
3 JUST MY LUCK
4 CLICK
SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 MIAMI VICE
2 LITTLE MAN
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 CLICK
5 OH MY GHOST
6 SUKOB
SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 SUKOB
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 OH MY GHOST
4 LITTLE MAN
5 CLICK
6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 CLICK
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE
3 OH MY GHOST
4 MORTUARY
SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
1 JUST MY LUCK
2 SUKOB
3 LITTLE MAN
4 STORMBREAKER
VISAYAS MINDANAO
SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE
3 MIAMI VICE
4 AMERICAN DREAMZ
5 CLICK
6 FIERCE PEOPLE
7 SUKOB
8 LITTLE MAN
SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 STORMBREAKER
2 RESERVED
3 SUKOB
4 AMERICAN DREAMZ
5 CLICK
6 LITTLE MAN
7 RESERVED
8 JUST MY LUCK
SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 MIAMI VICE
2 SUKOB
3 LITTLE MAN
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 THE BREAK-UP
6 ANT BULLY
SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 MIAMI
2 CLICK
3 ANT BULLY
4 LITTLE MAN
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THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
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NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 SNAKE ON A PLANE 11:45, 2:05, 4:20 6:35, 8:50
CINEMA 2 LITTLE MAN 11:20, 1:55, 4:30 7:05, 9:40 R-13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX
PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a diversion for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 11:20, 1:30, 3:40 5:50, 8:00, 10:10 R-13
CINEMA 4 CLICK 12:00, 2:30, 5:00 7:30, 10:00 R-13
CINEMA 5 LITTLE MAN 11:45, 2:25, 5:00 7:35, 10:10 R-13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
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AUG. 24,25 & 31 GARY V. 8:00PM
AUG. 26, 2006 NONOY ZUNIGA 8:00PM
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EVERY WEDNESDAY CERRUDO CLASSICO 8:00PM
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MTRCB Rating: PG-13
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NOKIA

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Ayala Malls Cinemas
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presents
The Golem
(How He Came into the World)
with music by Drip
on Tuesday, August 29, 2006,
at Greenbelt 1 Cinema 2, 8:00 PM

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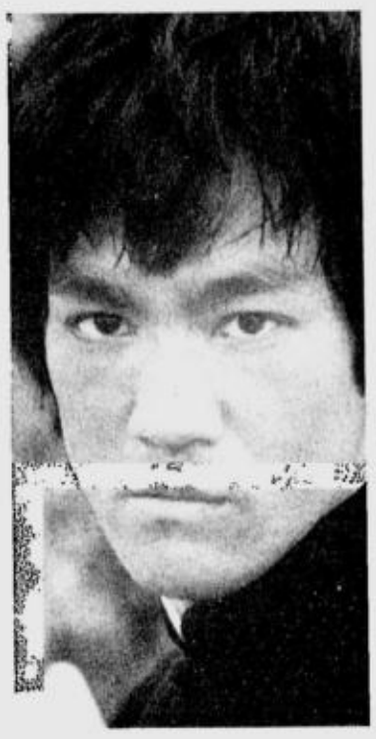
David Henry Hwang plans musical on BRUCE LEE

HONG KONG—TONY-WINNING Chinese-American playwright David Henry Hwang said he's planning to stage a musical based on the life of the late martial arts star, Bruce Lee, a newspaper recently reported.

Hwang said the idea has been approved by Lee's family, and he aims to stage the show in 2008, The South China Morning Post reported.

"Bruce Lee is honored around the world, because he represents an image of someone who's heroic, righteous and strong," Hwang explained.



LEE. Heroic, righteous and strong.

Stereotypes

"There has been a complete shift from the old stereotypes of China, and Bruce Lee contributed to that," he reportedly said.

The Hong Kong native died in 1973 at age 32 from swelling of the brain. He is known for films in which he portrayed characters that defended the Chinese working class from oppressors.

Hwang is best known for his play "M. Butterfly," about the affair between a Chinese transvestite and a French diplomat, which was remade into a Hollywood film starring John Lone and Jeremy Irons. The play won a Tony for best play.

The playwright also said he recently visited Shanghai and Beijing and is exploring the possibility of staging his plays there.

Hwang added: "There's a lot of interest in Broadway-style theater in Shanghai. So, I'm trying to find out what audiences in China think of my plays." *AP*

BUSINESS

Basking in success with Sara Lee Direct Selling

For many, direct selling is no more than a part-time opportunity for additional income. But for Aida, Brigitte and Dionisia, direct selling is the career that changed their lives from ordinary housewives and mere employees to successful entrepreneurs.

Aside from enjoying generous income opportunities and benefits, these ladies have also found a supportive environment to hone their entrepreneurial skills. In fact, this year, they have been proclaimed three of Sara Lee Direct Selling's top independent business managers (IBMs).

Aida Paraz joined Sara Lee Direct Selling in 1999. Through sheer hard work, she was promoted as IBM in 2001 and after two months, earned her first million. She is a constant top earner and has been in the top IBM list for four years in a row. "Now, I can travel abroad -- to Switzerland, Spain, and Canada. I now have my own Isuzu Crosswind. My dream house has also come true! Thanks to Sara Lee Direct Selling, I'm living my life to the fullest!"

Driven to become a successful entrepreneur, Brigitte Nitafan even opened a *sari-sari* store and would get into any business just to earn big for her family. Her biggest break came when she joined Sara Lee Direct Selling as a dealer. "I never expected that the products would sell like 'hotcakes'. On my first month, I was able to reach over a hundred thousand pesos in sales!" She also became a top IBM and now enjoys a free vehicle plan, among other incentives. "From renting an apartment and riding public utility vehicles, my family now owns a home and a car!"

From Top: Aida Paraz, Brigitte Nitafan, and Dionisia Miral are now enjoying entrepreneurial success through Sara Lee Direct Selling.

For Dionisia Miral, the promise of a better life lured her into joining Sara Lee Direct Selling. With a starting credit line of P1,200, she sold Playtex undergarments to customers in Parola, Tondo and Dasmariñas, Cavite. Her impressive performance easily qualified her as an IBM and has been reaping awards since. "I finally found the career that I've been dreaming of. I can now say that I am a successful careerwoman who provides well for her family, while enjoying life's luxuries!"

For these successful businesswomen, Sara Lee Direct Selling became more than just a part-time work. It became the stepping stone for a highly lucrative career as entrepreneurs.

Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines, Inc. is the authorized distributor of prestigious brands that include Playtex, Hanes, Champion, Wonderbra, Just My Size, Girls' Attitudes, Colour Collection, Beauty Touch, Ivana, Georgie On Ice, VS. Versus, Nutrimetics and Zwitsal. Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines, Inc. is also known as Fuller Cosmetics in Latin America and Nutrimetics in many parts of the world. If you have questions, need additional information or wish to become a dealer, call 859-3000, or send an email to customer_relation@saraleedirectselling.ph You can also send inquiries through fax number 867-2279. You may also get in touch through text at 0921-9643367 or 0915-9823471.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

STAMCINEPLEX
9th floor Shangrila Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633 2227/8337859 loc. 171

1 2:00pm LITTLE MAN
2 2:00pm SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 2:00pm CLICK
4 2:00pm MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

PREMIERE
2:00pm ANT BULLY
AMERICAN DREAMZ

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 CLICK
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 LITTLE MAN

stармall
EDSA SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3 LITTLE MAN
4 DOLBY DIGITAL SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 HADA

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994

1 SUKOB
2 HADA
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 LITTLE MAN

THEATRES
3rd Pacific Mall Concourse, Telephone No. (044) 602-5025

1? CLICK
2? OH MY GHOST
3? ANT BULLY

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271

1? AMERICAN HAUNTING
2? JUST MY LUCK
3? RESERVED
4? RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 2:00pm SUKOB
2 5:00pm MIAMI VICE
3 7:00pm CLICK
4 9:00pm MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 9:00pm SNAKES ON A PLANE
6 9:00pm LITTLE MAN
7 9:00pm FIERCE PEOPLE
8 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
9 MORTUARY
10 OH MY GHOST

Blue Wave MAKATI
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Nino, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 2:00pm MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 2:00pm LITTLE MAN
3 2:00pm SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 2:00pm RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 2:00pm HADA
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 SUKOB
4 LITTLE MAN
5 RESERVED

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 OH MY GHOST
2 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
3 LOVEWRECKED
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 HADA
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449348)

1 LITTLE MAN
2 JUST MY LUCK

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 2:00pm LITTLE MAN
2 SUKOB
3 2:00pm MIAMI VICE
4 SAINT ANGE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 SUKOB
2 OH MY GHOST

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 2:00pm LITTLE MAN
2 2:00pm SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 2:00pm MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 2:00pm CLICK

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 SUKOB
2 2:00pm OH MY GHOST
3 2:00pm LITTLE MAN
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 SUKOB
2 2:00pm STORM BREAKER
3 2:00pm JUST MY LUCK
4 LITTLE MAN

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 CLICK
2 OH MY GHOST
3 2:00pm SUKOB

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 OH MY GHOST
2 SUKOB
3 2:00pm CLICK
4 6:00pm JUST MY LUCK

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Pandel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 LITTLE MAN
2 ANT BULLY / JUST MAY LUCK
3 2:00pm OH MY GHOST

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 SUKOB
2 OH MY GHOST

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 SUKOB
2 ANT BULLY

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 650.1276

1 2:00pm TAMARA
2 AKO SIYA O IKW
3 TURN ON
4 6:00pm MORTUARY

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 2:00pm LITTLE MAN
KAPAG PALAY NAGING BIGAS MAY BUMAYO
3 6:00pm HADA
4 SUKOB
5 OH MY GHOST

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 UNITED 93
2 LITTLE MAN
3 WORLF CREEK
4 OH MY GHOST

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 SUKOB
2 PAKAWALANG PUSO

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9110

1 CLICK • THX 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	6 MIAMI VICE 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00	7 HADA 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
3 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50	8 OH MY GHOST! 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50	9 MORTUARY 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
5 LITTLE MAN 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50	10 SUKOB 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

ERMITA 536-7801 to 07

1 LITTLE MAN 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	
2 HADA 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50	5 CLICK 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50	6 SUKOB 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
4 MORTUARY 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50	7 SNAKES ON A PLANE 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8195 • 682-8198

1 AMERICAN DREAMZ 12:40 2:45 4:50 6:55 9:00	5 SUKOB 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10	6 HADA 12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10	7 CLICK 12:25 2:35 4:45 6:55 9:00
4 LITTLE MAN 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10	8 MORTUARY 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

NOVALICHES 936-3231 / 936-3229-30

1 SNAKES ON A PLANE 2 LITTLE MAN	3 MORTUARY 4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575 PIONEER 687-5378

1 STORMBREAKER 2 OH MY GHOST! 3 RESERVE 4 RESERVE	1 LITTLE MAN 2 SNAKES ON A PLANE 3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 4 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

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THX

CINEMAS
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STA. ROSA (049) 567-0807 LIPA (043) 312-5870

1 STORMBREAKER 2 JUST MY LUCK 3 WOLF CREEK 4 LITTLE MAN	1 UNITED 93 2 LITTLE MAN 3 SUKOB 4 OH MY GHOST!

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2126 (046) 416-1332 ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 STORMBREAKER 2 TAMARA 3 LITTLE MAN 4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	1 MIAMI VICE 2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 3 WOLF CREEK 4 LITTLE MAN

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188 STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 891-5270

1 TAMARA 2 MIAMI VICE 3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 4 LITTLE MAN	1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 2 SUKOB 3 AMERICAN DREAMZ 4 OH MY GHOST! 5 LITTLE MAN 6 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0456 ILOILO (033) 330-8070

1 LITTLE MAN 2 CLICK 3 STORMBREAKER 4 JUST MY LUCK 5 AMERICAN DREAMZ 6 OH MY GHOST!	1 STORMBREAKER 2 TAMARA 3 LITTLE MAN 4 WOLF CREEK

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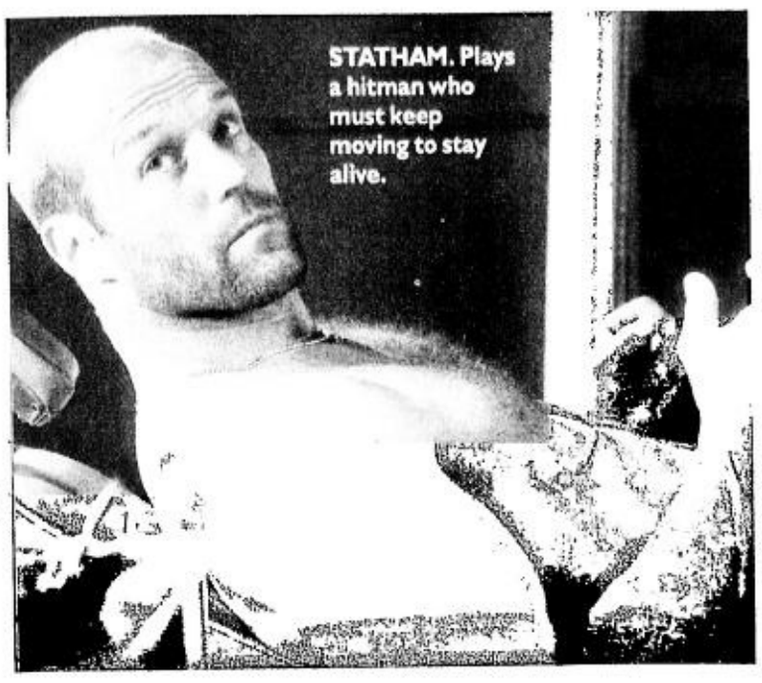
Statham pumps up the action in 'Crank'


STATHAM. Plays a hitman who must keep moving to stay alive.

JASON STATHAM, THE HIGH-FLYING AND bullet-dodging dude in "The Transporter," raises viewers' adrenaline level anew in "Crank." In his new starrer, Statham plays a hitman for a major West Coast syndicate whose latest assignment goes awry: In an effort to quit killing and start a new life with his girlfriend (Amy Smart), the hitman lets his target slip away.

MONTAGE

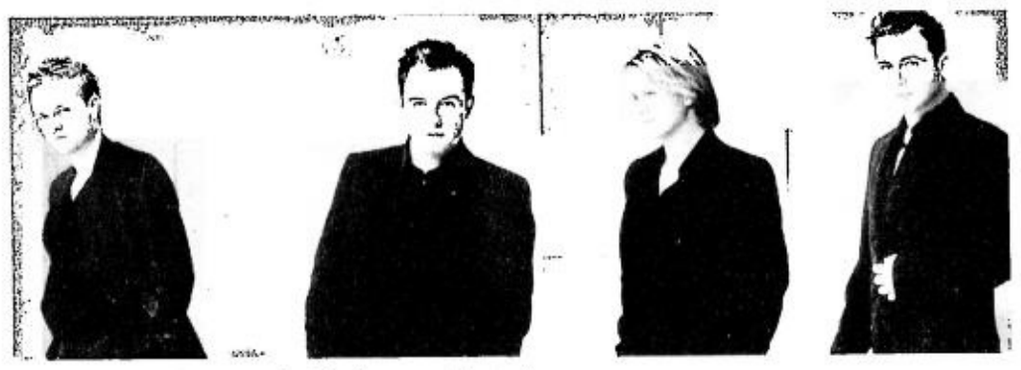
Now, he must keep moving to stay alive—literally, since a thug informs the hitman that he's been poisoned in his sleep and has only an hour to live!

The only way to keep the poison from stopping his heart is to keep his adrenaline flowing. So, Statham's character cuts a swath through the streets of Los Angeles in a desperate bid to rescue his girlfriend and search for an antidote to save his life! "Crank" opens on Sept. 13.

Perfect match

Vibrant Iya Villania is the new celebrity endorser of Sun Cellular. Armed with her cell phone loaded with Sun Cellular Text Unlimited with Free Calls, Iya is busy juggling her time between her studies and career. She's a video jock on MYX, hosts "U Can Dance," "ASAP" and "US Girls" on TV, and has starred in the film, "Pamahiin."

Sun Cellular and Iya are a perfect match, with her exciting personality and lifestyle jibing completely with the range of irresistible deals from Sun Cellular Prepaid. With all the people she needs to contact each day, Sun Cellular's unlimited texting and free calls are very convenient for her, and a big moneysaver, to boot.


WESTLIFE performs at the Big Dome on Sept. 4.

'Stay Alive'

In the new gaming film, "Stay Alive," a new horror survival game gets out of hand when a group of New Orleans players end up dead one by one, each killed in the same way that their respective characters died in the game. So, are they playing the game—or is the game playing them? Opening on Aug. 30, the film stars Jimmi Simpson and is made by gamer-filmmakers William Brent Bell and Matthew Peterman.

'Roman Technology'

National Geographic Channel's "Roman Technology," which highlights the remarkable creations of Roman architecture, medicine and military engineering, will be telecast anew at 4 p.m. on Aug. 28.

'Mortuary'

Horror master Tobe Hooper has come up with his current chiller, "Mortuary," about a family that moves into an old funeral home, only to discover that something evil lurks in the vaults beneath—something so sinister that the house's past residents have no intention of leaving them alone! Stars include Dan Byrd, Denise Crosby and Stephanie Patton.

'Pororoca'

At 5 p.m. tomorrow, the National Geographic Channel replays "Pororoca: Quest for the Endless Wave," a surfing special that takes viewers to the Amazon River, where the Atlantic Ocean swells back once a year, creating a tidal phenomenon that's a unique challenge to surfers.

STATHAM/ H5

VILLANIA. Always on the move with her cell phone provider.

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JUETENG KUBRADOR
CINEMA EVALUATION BOARD GRADED A
a film by JEFFREY JETURIAN

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MARLON WAYANS SHAWN WAYANS
LITTLE MAN
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AT THE CINEMAS
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	2 SNAKES ON THE PLANE	3 MORTUARY	4 LITTLE MAN
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	2 CLICK	3 THX SNAKES ON THE PLANE 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 FREEDOMLAND	5 KUBRADOR	6 LITTLE MAN	7 SUKOB
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND		2 SNAKES ON THE PLANE	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX LITTLE MAN 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX SNAKES ON THE PLANE 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20, 11:25 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 MIAMI VICE 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 CLICK 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX SNAKES ON THE PLANE		2 LITTLE MAN	
	3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	4 AMERICAN DREAMZ	5 CLICK	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 SNAKES ON THE PLANE	2 LITTLE MAN	3 AMERICAN DREAMZ	4 FIERCE PEOPLE
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 SNAKES ON THE PLANE		2 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2	
	3 OH MY GHOST	4 LITTLE MAN	5 SUKOB	

At the Activity Center
Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272, from 10am to 8pm; Greenbelt - 752 4853, from 11am to 12mn; Alabang Town Center - 842 2782, from 10am to 8pm; Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324; Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Cirque Imago August 25 to 27, 2006	Cirque Imago August 18 to 20
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
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GREENBELT — Jazz Nights at GB 2 August 16, 23 & 30, 2006

Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents Walt Disney's ALADDIN JR. at REP's Globe Theater - Aug. 26, Sept. 3, 9, Oct: 14 & 22. For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM — Ode To The Pasig River, June 27 to August 27, 2006. For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

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MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

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Ayala Center Cebu Activity Center: August 11 · 3pm and 6pm; August 12-13 · 11am, 3pm and 6pm. Customer Service Hotline: (032) 231-5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! Activity Center: August 22-24 · 3pm and 6 pm. Customer Service Hotline: 886-7519
VIVA | Ayala Malls CINEMAS | glorietta | GREENBELT

Kuh marks 25th year

LEDESMA. Celebrates a milestone.

By Remy M. Umerez

THIS YEAR, KUH LEDESMA IS MARKing her 25th anniversary as a solo performer in the music industry. She recently finished the first leg of her US concert tour.

"The tour was exhausting but thoroughly fulfilling, because *puro maka-Diyos ang aking mga kasamang nag*-perform," Kuh beams. She was referring to Basil Valdez, Christopher de Leon and Christian Bautista, who were her special guests in the concert.

Sponsors

"On weekdays, we promoted the show by visiting our sponsors. Some Filipinos don't believe that we are performing *unless* they see the artists promote the show in person. *Marami sa kanila,* last-minute *magsibili ng* tickets. With God's help, our shows were well-received; they loved listening to old melodies," she shares.

Last night, Kuh staged a special concert, "Come Rain, Come Shine," at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental, with special guest Mon David, who recently won the grand prize at the London International Jazz Competition.

New album

Kuh is set to release a new album, "K," before the year ends. "This collection will be my *pamana* to those who appreciate my music," she explains.

Twenty years ago, Kuh staged a major concert, "Inspired Madness," at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. It was a difficult show, with Kuh having to do stunts despite her delicate condition then. "I was three months pregnant *pero hindi ko pinaalam sa* director *ko* ," Kuh recalls.

Re-staging "Inspired Madness" will trace how the music of Kuh has evolved through the years.

Nope, retirement isn't in Ledesma's vocabulary. She aims to achieve more in the next 25 years!

Statham pumps up the action in 'Crank

From page H4

'Saludo Filipino'

At 4 p.m. on Sept. 3 at the Francisco Santiago Hall of Equitable PCIBank, "Saludo Filipino" features the works of choreographers, Jojo Lucila, Myra Beltran, Ianne Damian, Stephen Biadomo, Jun Saagundo and Arnie Umayan, as interpreted by the Vella C. Damian School of Ballet and Dance Concert Company, with guest artists from the Chameleon Dance Company and Neo Nescas.

DANCERS from ballet school interpret works of local choreographers.

Westlife

On Sept. 4, Westlife performs at the Araneta Coliseum. The popular boy band is composed on Shane Filan, Kian Egan, Nicky Byrne and Mark Feehily. Call 911-5555.

Movies on TV

On Cinemax, Aug. 26 at 7:10 p.m., "Stars Fell on Henrietta." Aug. 27 at 9:30 a.m., "Philadelphia." Aug. 28 at 7:30 a.m., "Pleasantville." Aug. 29 at 11:05 p.m., "Arlington Road." Aug. 30 at 9:35 a.m., "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind." Aug. 31 at 4:35 a.m., "Mr. Roberts." Sept. 1 at 6:30 a.m., "From Here to Eternity."

On HBO, Aug. 26 at 7:30 p.m., "Shark Tale." Aug. 27 at 6:30 a.m., "The Last Days of Disco." Aug. 28 at 7:20 p.m., "A Smile Like Yours." Aug. 29 at 3:45 p.m., "Men Don't Leave." Aug. 30 at 8 a.m., "Blue City." Aug. 31 at 6 a.m., "The Last Ride." Sept. 1 at 7:30 p.m., "Shrek 2."

'Compound'

Catch the acclaimed indie film, "Compound," starring John Arcilla, Jake Macapagal, Marq Dollentes and Lily Chu, in its unedited version at UP's Cine Adarna on Sept. 9, with screenings at 5 and 7:30 p.m. Proceeds will benefit UP Alyansa and the Philippine Mental Health Association. Call TicketWorld at 891-9999.

'Chi-noi'

Dulaang Bedista stages its fifth season offering, the three-act dance-drama, "Chi-noi," today and tomorrow at the Fleur de Lis Auditorium of St. Paul's University of Manila. Vince Tañada directs a young cast that includes Chris Lim and Adelle Ibarrientos. Call 493-2767.

CASTILLO. Topbills award-winning indie, "Pepot Artista."

Cinemalaya films

As part of CCP's Outreach Program, the first batch of Cinemalaya films will start in Naga City in Bicol on Aug. 31. Watch the festival's notable indies like "Pepot Artista" (starring Singapore film fest best actor winner, Elijah Castillo), "ICU Bed #7," "Sarong Banggi," "Big Time," "Baryoke" and "Room Boy" when they visit your locality.

Call Armie Laudencia at 0918 484-6460, or e-mail at ablaudencia@yahoo.com.

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2 SNAKES ON A PLANE 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 R-13
4 CLICK 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:05 PG-13

SHANG CINEPLEX
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2 SNAKES ON A PLANE MTRCB. PG-13 12 00, 2.30, 5 00, 7 30, 10 00
3 CLICK MTRCB· PG-13 12.50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND MTRCB R-13 12 40, 3 00, 5 20, 7 40, 10:00
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LITTLE MAN R13 1:25,3:35,5:45, 7:55,10:05
CLICK PG13 1:10,3:20,5:30,7:40,9:50
ANT BULLY G 1:10,3:15,5:20,7:25,9:30
SNAKE ON THE PLANE 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25
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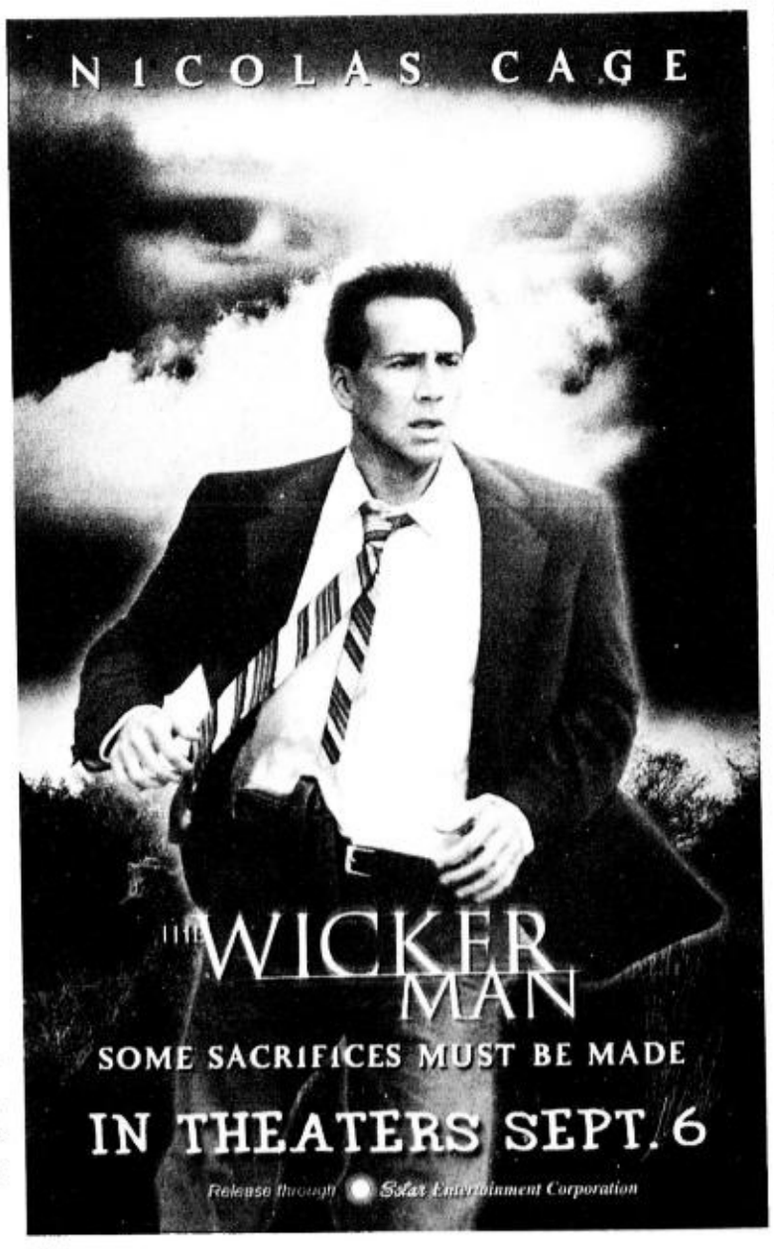
MATINEE PHP 111.00 – SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 PM – MONDAY-FRIDAY



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Benkay's weekend buffet

BRING THE WHOLE family for a scrumptious smorgasbord of great Japanese dishes every weekend beginning Aug. 19 at Dusit Hotel Nikko's Benkay Japanese Restaurant.

Sample a wide array of choices from the freshest sushi and salads to agemono dishes of gindara and salmon, teppanyaki, tempuras, sukiyakis and selection of sobas for only P995++ per person. Fifty percent (50 percent) discount on the buffet rate for children dining ages 4 to 10 years old.

Benkay's weekend buffet is available every Saturday and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For more information, please call 867-3333 extension 3343.

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Citygarden Hotel Makati goes wireless

THIS MONTH OF AUGUST, CITY GARDEN Hotel Makati goes wireless with WIFI access all over the hotel. Truly giving you connectivity, whenever, wherever.

With that, anybody can now enjoy City Garden Hotel's first class amenities without really being away from it all. Rooms come for as low as P1,450 per person on twin-sharing basis including a sumptuous buffet breakfast at the Le Jardin.

For meetings and seminars, wireless connectivity can now be enjoyed at the hotel's function rooms. Seminar packages come for as low as P9,750+ inclusive of lunch, 2 snacks and use of function room.

Try out their fully-equipped gym and sauna or take a dip in their open-air swimming pool at the Roofdeck.

For those craving for some Japanese treats, try City Garden Hotel Makati's on-going food promotion entitled, "Taste of Japan", offering delectable sushi and sashimi, appetizing soups and salads, and mouth-watering Tempura, Yakitori, Teppanyaki, Gyodon and Teriyaki.

If you want rest and relaxation, try the Bamboo Bliss, a signature Spa package at the newly opened Bamboo Massage & Spa at the Upper Penthouse, or a facial treatment for two for a relaxing and rejuvenating retreat.

For dinner, do not miss the Roofdeck Bar & Grill. Offering sumptuous grilled specialties and appetizers, it has the best view of the metropolis at night. A great way to end a great day!

For more details, City Garden Hotel Makati is located in Makati's restaurant strip at Makati Avenue corner Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City. For reservations or inquires, please call (02) 899-1111, or its domestic toll free number 1-800-101-GARDEN (427336), or at www.citygardenhotels.com.

Muchie Muffins at the Manila Pavilion Hotel

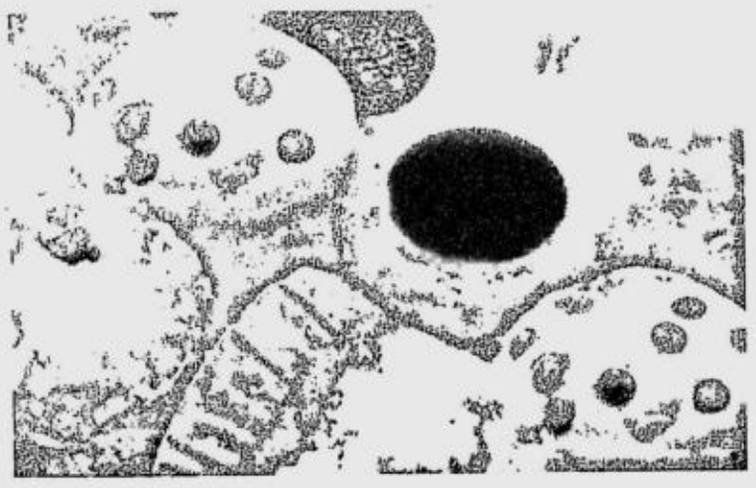
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU enjoyed a favorite munchie this much? Feel like a kid again and bite into these fun and playful muffins with a smile! This August, pick any of these Munchie Muffin flavors according to whatever tickles your fancy.

Munchie Muffins at the Patisserie comes in seven exciting flavors: Apple Walnut Cinnamon; Honey-cured Ham and Cheddar; Strawberry White Chocolate; Almond Pistacchio and Toblerone; Cookies and Cream with a Twist; Ube Mango with Macapuno; and M&M Chocolate Crunch.

Then pair it with Patisserie's signatured coffee blend - Dark Roast Coffee. Extracted from 100 percent premium coffee beans, you get to enjoy freshly brewed coffee anytime of the day together with your own favorite munchie.

Priced at P45+++ per piece, Munchie Muffins are available for the whole month of August

For inquiries and orders, please call Manila Pavilion Hotel at (02) 526-1212 extension 2326.



People, Events & Products

The Best of Business Warfare in Competing for Markets

WHO HASN'T HEARD OF SUN Tzu? The legendary Chinese general, who lived around 600 BC, is synonymous with his classic military text, "The Art of War." This work is said to have influenced greatest political and military figures in world history, from Napoleon Bonaparte to Mao Zedong, Vo Nguyen Giap and Henry Kissinger, and even the planning of Operation Desert Storm. Although "The Art of War" is primarily about military strategies and tactics, it has since been applied to a range of other areas and would be particularly relevant to the business setting. In today's fast-moving global economy, factors such as technological advances, ever-changing consumer preferences, and a proliferation of market players and products have led to increasingly stiff competition among enterprises. Small and medium-sized businesses are especially vulnerable to shifting tides in the market, while large companies constantly strive for market dominance or, at least, try to protect their market share. It would be timely for business leaders to brush up on Sun Tzu's teachings and see how these can be applied to their respective fields; however, the value of reading is better appreciated when complemented by a live lecture from the only Asian expert in the art of business warfare, especially when the lecturer comes from the number 1 ranked business school in Southeast Asia.

Get a chance to learn the theory and practice of Sun Tzu's teachings in a special 2-day seminar entitled, "Sun Tzu Business Warfare Series II: Best Practices in Competing for Markets." This event, organized by the Center for Global Best Practices (telephone 842-7148 and 59 and website www.cgbp.org) will be held on Sept. 7 and 8, at The Conservatory, Peninsula Manila. Main lecturer will be professor Lee Khai Sheang, vice-dean of graduate studies of the National University of Singapore (NUS) Business School. Aside from being NUS' star lecturer on Sun Tzu at the graduate and post-graduate levels, he is also the only recognized resource speaker on this topic in the Asian region. He has authored two books, namely, "Competing for Markets: Growth Strategies for SMEs" and "Sun Tzu: War and Management."

Participants will get a fresh perspective on how to form effective business strategies when competing for markets and will gain an in-depth understanding of market entry strategy options, competitive counterstrategies and free-riding strategies, among others. This program, which is about 1/5 of what it would normally cost if taken in Singapore, could be your best weapon yet in the endless battle for market penetration and supremacy.

EV LAUNCHES NEW LINE OF MICROPHONES

EVI Distribution Philippines Inc. recently introduced Electro Voice's new line of broadcast, live performance and wireless microphones at the PALMM Phils '06 held at the World Trade Center. Leading personalities and celebrities visited the display and were given the latest RE-2510 Wireless Mics to try out. In photo (from left) are Vincent Tan, marketing manager, Telex Communications (SEA) Pte Ltd; pop singers Kitchie Nadal and Teddy (Rocksteddy lead singer); Simon Tay, general manager, Telex Communications (SEA) Pte Ltd and Lito Dungca - AVP, EVI Distribution Philippines Inc. Also featured during the exhibition are the latest array of EV and Dynacord Speakers- DVX 1276 and Cobra 4 suited for outdoor sound system requirements. For more information call 897-7683 or 897-7693.

Delightful and tasty combinations

THERE ARE FOODS THAT ARE BEST ENJOYED WHEN EATEN TOGETHER --- like double dutch ice cream that combines vanilla and chocolate, twin-flavored pies that feature banana and jackfruit, or double-flavored baked goodies like honey mocha cakes or, in the case of Gardenia's Double Delights Loaves-ube and cheese, and chocolate and mocha. The Gardenia Double Delights ube and cheese loaf is a unique product that combines the delicious flavors of ube and cheese in one loaf. The Ubelicious and Cheesy Twirl combination joins two distinct flavors that make for an inviting and flavorful contrast in taste and in color that is uniquely Gardenia. The Ubelicious and Cheesy Twirl combination is also a versatile snack! Ube lovers will relish its sweet, creamy ube taste while cheese cravers will fall for its tangy, savory cheesy flavor. Either way, you're bound to please anyone with this truly delightful and flavorful bread. With Gardenia Double Delights ube and cheese and chocolate and mocha Loaf, enjoying fresh and delicious bread indeed makes for a hearty experience.

Pink Power Girl Power

Women have undeniably come a long way from the traditional image of Maria Clara Filipinas – meek and passive, settled with doing the conventional tasks commonly delegated to women. The modern Filipina is slowly emerging from this shadow, as a new force to reckon with. She has set out to explore, and excel, in many fields where women have previously been denied access to—the corporate world, sports, politics, business. She now has control—the power to call the shots, make the decisions. But at the end of the day, she never wants to shed off her feminine side, she still wants to feel like the woman she truly is. Pink Cream Silk recognizes this innate desire in women, to pursue her life's passion and all the while remaining beautiful. This is Pink Power, Girl Power.

In celebration of this attitude, Cream Silk has launched the Pink Power, Girl Power Campaign which urges women to go ahead and choose both power to pursue her passions and choose beauty with her straighter, beautiful hair. As proof of this, Pink Cream Silk introduces five stellar young women who have made a mark in each of their intense, male-dominated chosen fields of passion, and still remained stunningly beautiful.

Truly, the modern Filipina can choose both power and beauty, becoming a force that the world simply cannot ignore. And at the dawn of the Pink Power, Girl Power Revolution, the world eagerly awaits to see such greatness.

A Pink Celebration of Power & Beauty

People's Palace in Greenbelt vibrated with female energy when Pink Cream Silk Conditioner recently launched its Pink Power, Girl Power campaign.

Attended by the ladies who manage and write for the country's top publications, the event marked the call to women to choose to succeed in their chosen life's passions, even in arenas which are readily associated with men, all the while remaining beautiful. Indeed in recent years, male-driven fields of industry, art, sports, and business have seen the rise of women becoming prominent players with their unique passion and drive to fulfill their goals. Amidst all the intensity and challenges faced, Cream Silk's advocacy reminds women never to forget to choose to remain feminine and gorgeous, with their straighter, beautiful hair.

The "pink" event was graced by no less than the Pink Lady of Marikina – **Mayor Marides Fernando**. An excellent example of a woman who successfully entered the field of politics, she transformed the city of Marikina into a sparkling pink city, showing that progress and discipline are possible to achieve. "Women leaders can be tough yet continue to be feminine. Toughness and charm can naturally co-exist and produce good results," says the power lady.

The main highlight of the event was the introduction of five powerful women who excel in different male-oriented fields of sports, architecture and music.

Gaby dela Merced is an Asian Formula 3 car racer who drives with unequalled passion. "When I am behind the wheel, I become one with it. Focus is essential when you want to win." **Rainey Sta. Maria** daringly ventured into the extreme water sport of wakeboarding. On her choice to excel in this tough sport, Rainey says, "The only way to become good at anything is to take the first step." **Roanna Reyes**, a successful architect making waves in a once male-dominated field shares "Confidence makes a woman beautiful." **Lougee of MOJOFLY**, lead vocalist of the alternative rock band, is hitting the high notes within this fiercely competitive field. "I am a firm believer that being beautiful is not a lucky card that you are dealt, it is something you work for," says the singer. And finally, **Toni Leviste**, Olympic equestrienne, has put the Filipina on the international track. "The spirit of healthy competition and sportsmanship carries over to other areas in life, and for me, that's really important for nation-building. You have to cultivate drive, willpower and pride," says Toni.

Indeed, despite their varied passions, the girls have one thing in common: they all chose power and beauty to succeed in their respective fields. They can hold their heads high, confident and beautiful with their straighter, beautiful hair.

Gilbert Simpao, Marketing Director for Hair & Oral Care, summed up the thrust of the Pink Power, Girl Power campaign with his observation that "women have learned to recognize the strength of power and beauty as the Filipina's machinery for fulfilling their dreams."

Cream Silk Pink Power Girl Power host Akiko Thompson

More Power! Marikina Mayor Marides Fernando (2nd from left) leads the toast to power and beauty with Cream Silk Pink Power, Girl Power icons Lougee of MOJOFLY, Rainey Sta. Maria, Gaby de la Merced and Roanna Reyes.

Cream Silk brand manager Dorothy Dee with Preview's Pauline Juan.

Metro's Melanie Cuevas and Mega's Vicky Tensuan in a power huddle.

Marikina Mayor Marides Fernando with Manila Bulletin's Ethel Timbol.

Empowered ladies of Cosmo: Claire Samson and Ianne Evangelista.

Cheers! From left: Cream Silk's Jem Perez and Mikki Ravelo, Lougee of MOJO FLY, Rainey Sta. Maria, Unilever's Hair & Oral Care Marketing Director Gilbert Simpao, Cream Silk brand manager Dorothy Dee, Gaby de la Merced and Roanna Reyes.

Unilever's Jem Perez, Mikki Ravelo, Nora Valeriano and Dorothy Dee

Power Beauty

Over the decades, girl power has broken many barriers and the Filipina has entered fields once exclusively for men. The challenge to excel has evolved, and the question often asked is this: do women have to sacrifice their feminine inclination if they want to rough it out and bat for their dreams?

Let our Cream Silk Pink Power, Girl Power icons make the point: women can have both power and beauty to fuel their journey to success.

They're young, beautiful, driven, successful and they wear their femininity like a badge of honor. Cream Silk's New Pink Power, Girl Power icons prove that no matter where you are or what you do, choosing to be beautiful is a pretty powerful move.

in the driver's seat

At the mention of racecars and speed demons, the first thing that comes to mind is usually an image of men popping the champagne for yet another Grand Prix win. Until Gaby dela Merced came along, the image of a lithe, female figure stepping out of a Formula 3 racecar, removing her helmet and shaking off straighter, beautiful locks in the wind was strictly the stuff of movies. But this young and stunning racer is slowly heating up the tracks at the Asian Formula 3 circuit, determined to show the world that beautiful women – and not just men – are also built for speed.

There is a unique force that emanates when you see Gaby on the wheel. "I have a very special relationship with my car. When I'm behind the wheel, I become one with it. I become the car," says Gaby. Having grown up around boys, she got exposed early on to male-oriented games and toys. Of the boy's toys, she seemed particularly drawn to cars, and got her very own set of wheels from her father for her 18th birthday. Since then, her passion for racing has never ceased, continually honing her skills and competing in numerous races locally and in the international circuit.

This young lady's affinity to extreme challenges even takes her beyond the tracks. When she's not racing athletic, Gaby likes to push the limits of her endurance and stamina, both physical and mental. In 2003 alone, she jumped headlong into two adventure races — the Oakley Corregidor challenge, where she placed fourth, and the AXN Challenge. In 2005, she placed fifth at the Department of Tourism's Adventure Race.

With such a packed schedule, you might expect Gaby to keep a rather Spartan regimen or wear her hair short, the "low-maintenance" look of choice by women who think they need to make a choice between looking good and accomplishing a lot in her chosen sports.

But for Gaby, who incidentally boasts of beautifully straighter hair, these two seemingly contradicting options is a passé mentality. She has always valued looking her best, along with doing her best. As she does for racing, she has very definite opinions about how women ought to celebrate how they look.

Beauty, says the dusky Filipina, is never losing one's identity. "Beauty is all about being yourself, and not a product of other's expectations. I have a good regimen. First of all, I make sure I have lots of sleep, drink a lot of water and de-stress before a race."

She lives pink power and loves every opportunity to prove to herself that beauty and power keep her ahead in the race. Expect to see a lot more of this girl, removing her helmet at the finish line and letting her straighter beautiful hair loose, after winning race after race after race.

beauty on a high note

The ultimate success formula in the cutthroat world of rock music, where most wannabes could labor for years before scoring one record deal or maybe none at all, is to have unique pipes of steel and goddess-like good looks. While some people say that's a myth more than a reality — after all, genuine talent and beauty all in one package is a rare find — a new force in music is arguing otherwise. As the frontwoman of a highly successful local band, Lougee of MOJOFLY has the raw energy that could power half of Makati through a blackout, and captivating good looks that could keep large crowds enchanted all night long.

A double-threat – she sings and writes songs – she is fast becoming a force to reckon with in the local scene. Music has always been in her blood; apart from having vocal prowess and songwriting sensibilities, she also plays at least three instruments. She had an early start in her career as a member of pop-teen group Kaya, managed by none other than the very exacting Ryan Cayabyab himself. But back then, she says, "singing wasn't such a full time thing for me." Much later, the grown singer had to contend other obstacles: a more demanding schedule with MOJOFLY, school, and her parents' concern about the misconceptions about the trappings of the rock star life.

Determined to proceed full force in her chosen path, Lougee worked hard to juggle late night gigs with studies, and managed her parents' misapprehensions on her chosen career. Today, she has become a sought after artist – both for her vocal prowess and her equally powerful presence on stage that can entrance her audience till the wee hours of the morning.

In concert mode, Lougee's skin glows and her hair flows beautifully. With the face of an angel and long, straight hair that most women would trade their boyfriends in for, she's simply gorgeous.

She's a firm believer that being beautiful is not a lucky card you are simply dealt, it's something you work for. So no matter how tired she is from a gig, she doesn't skip her daily beauty regimen of shampooing and conditioning her hair.

Indeed, Lougee has shot into the limelight and her star is clearly still on the rise. In the tricky entertainment business, artists need to have staying power. Armed with the formula of killer good looks with her straighter, beautiful hair, Lougee is here to stay for a long, long time.

riding high

Be-medaled equestrienne and Olympian Toni Leviste has it all: passion for her sport, uncommon grace on horseback, and real beauty. When she walks into a room with bright sparkling eyes, dewy skin and healthy, shiny black hair, she makes all the hard work and rigorous training to be among the world's best seem like a breeze.

While she is having the time of her life, she'll be the first to say that riding horses in competition is more than a sport, it's a calling. "This is not the easiest thing to get into," she says. "It's an extremely expensive and demanding sport, working long hours, building rapport with your horse. Also, in show-jumping men and women compete in the same arena. All you get is 90 seconds to show what took you years and years of hard training. Out of the world's ten best show-jumpers, eight are men. It's still a male-dominated sport.

But it's not a brute sport, it's more about mental strength, so it's not impossible for women to do even better!"

Still, Toni is living proof that passions that run deep cannot be denied, and while all these hurdles are stacked on her way to her ultimate dream — that prized Olympic gold — she's gracefully clearing them one by one. Her personal best has taken her to the 2004 Sydney Olympics as only the second Filipina to successfully clear the pre-Olympics worldwide qualifying event.

Despite her big goals and the work required to achieve them, Toni makes time for the little details of her life that add up to literally beautiful results. Beauty isn't something that she relegates to the backburner in favor of other things. Looking her best is just as important to her. Because she's exposed to the elements, she takes religious care of her assets: skin always hydrated with moisturizers, and beautifully straighter hair always conditioned to perfection. Being resigned to less than perfect hair because of rigorous training and exposure to the sun is not part of a go-getting girl's mindset. There is always something you can do about it, and Toni manages hers with the dedication of a true champion.

Indeed, it is a such a rare find when you come across one who embodies both power and beauty. And Toni is most certainly attractive proof that a girl can really have it all.

beauty design

It might be easy for a woman who meets every standard of beauty, to rest on that knowledge and earn a living by simply preening. It certainly would have been the easier, more charmed route for disarmingly pretty Roanna Reyes, but instead she set her sights on achieving a childhood dream to be a world class architect. Roanna knew she wanted to be an architect even as a young girl. "I would bring out paper and pens and just draw," she says. "Then I'd tell my parents I wanted to be an architect." It's a pretty innocent ambition, but when you consider that both her parents are well respected and highly accomplished architects, Roanna certainly had big shoes to fill.

She met the challenge with enthusiasm and hard work. Being the daughter of the University of Santo Tomas's dean of the College of Architecture, Roanna went through college not without the usual skepticism and envy that is accorded driven and gorgeous young women.

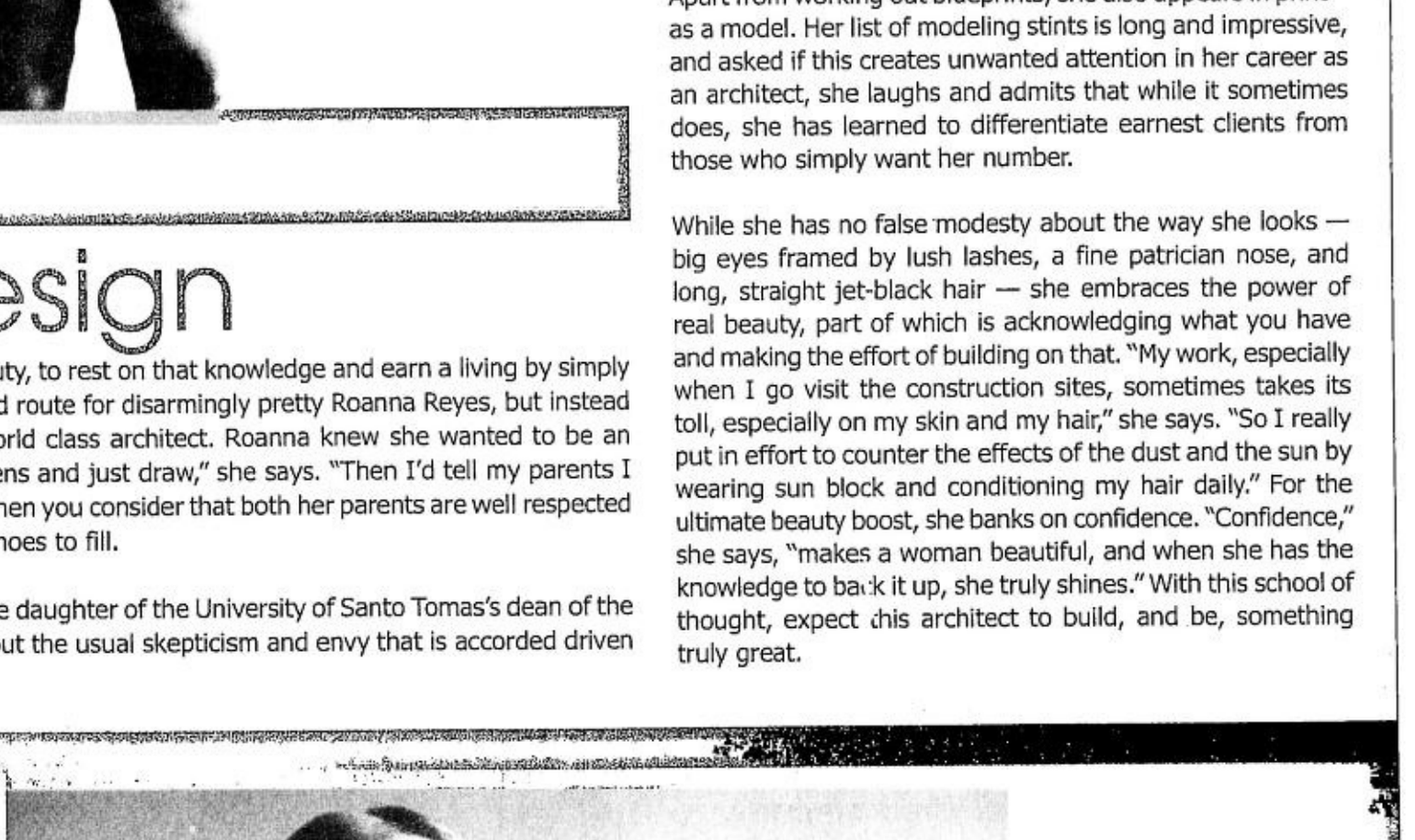
Even more, in a male-dominated course like Architecture, the challenge to excel for a young ambitious woman such as herself, was much greater. Nevertheless, she overcame these obstacles, burning the midnight oil, designing projects and completing required plates, refusing to allow anyone a reason to doubt her talent and determination. Her hard work paid off; she has garnered a number of awards for her work all through college and beyond, and placed 6th in the Board Examinations for Architecture in 2003.

Despite all her early success, Roanna remains grounded. Comparisons to her parents don't dishearten her, they only serve to give her a boost. "My parents are my idols," she says. "I've always looked to them for advice and support." And her parents have supported her in all her endeavors and at only 26 years of age, Roanna boasts of many.

Apart from working out blueprints, she also appears in print – as a model. Her list of modeling stints is long and impressive, and asked if this creates unwanted attention in her career as an architect, she laughs and admits that while it sometimes does, she has learned to differentiate earnest clients from those who simply want her number.

While she has no false modesty about the way she looks — big eyes framed by lush lashes, a fine patrician nose, and long, straight jet-black hair — she embraces the power of real beauty, part of which is acknowledging what you have and making the effort of building on that. "My work, especially when I go visit the construction sites, sometimes takes its toll, especially on my skin and my hair," she says. "So I really put in effort to counter the effects of the dust and the sun by wearing sun block and conditioning my hair daily." For the ultimate beauty boost, she banks on confidence. "Confidence," she says, "makes a woman beautiful, and when she has the knowledge to back it up, she truly shines." With this school of thought, expect this architect to build, and be, something truly great.

a splash of beauty



It's not easy being beautiful, and certainly harder still when you rough it out in the water, being dragged by a boat at breakneck speed. While many may think it is impossible for any one to have the energy or the will to maintain their beauty while being battered by the elements, Rainey Sta. Maria proves otherwise. A woman drawn to the outdoors, with a special love for water sports, she wears a perpetual deep tan that is telling of where she gets thrills — on the water, riding the foamy wake of a speedboat. This stunning 29-year-old wakeboard enthusiast and former national jetski women's champion likes to downplay what she has achieved in water sports that some might consider extreme.

"Sure wakeboarding is a little difficult," she says matter-of-factly, "but it's mostly fun. When you've learned how to do it, you just want to become better. And as for most sports, you just have to go out there and do it. The only way to become good at anything is to take the first step." Although she harbors a healthy competitive streak, much of her involvement in wakeboarding is borne out of sheer enjoyment. She actively promoted the sport for the National Wakeboard Association in 1999 to 2001 and showed beginners the ropes.

Because she has defied the stereotype of a female extreme athlete sporting patchy skin and dry, stringy hair — by sharp contrast, her skin is even and smooth, and her long, straight hair is perpetually soft and silky— she makes a great role model for women who want to jump right into the water but dread the fallout. Rainey doesn't believe in picking one over the other — enjoying the sport versus staying beautiful — and says it's entirely possible to do both. She says, "Women can have everything, and do anything." Part of having everything is keeping to a beauty regimen she religiously follows.

"Daily shampoo and conditioner is very important for someone who is constantly exposed to the sun and saltwater," she says. "I shampoo to remove the salt and condition to make my hair soft and silky again, because saltwater really dries it out."

Indeed, Rainey is living proof that even if you're roughing it out in the water, you don't have to look like something the tide brought in. On the contrary, you can make a big splash in the looks department as well.

Choose (Cream Silk Pink Power Girl Power Song)

Allan Elgar, lead guitarist for the band MOJOFLY, must have been inspired by women who clearly took the reins in steering their lives towards roads less travelled, as he composed "Choose," the theme song of Cream Silk's Pink Power, Girl Power campaign. With the emotionally stirring beat supplied by drummer Ali Alejandro, powered with words that call the woman to action, the song captures the passion behind the choice she makes in pursuing her life long dreams and her choice to always remain beautiful, all woman. Power and beauty combine to touch the very soul of every woman who stands up to her true nature, destined to make a change.

Lougee of MOJOFLY, lead vocalist and one of the Cream Silk Pink Power, Girl Power Icons sings the song with the energy of a woman who possesses pipes of steel and goddess-like good looks, a true example of girl power.

I can see fire in your eyes
You make your own future, don't be afraid to try
Be ready to seize the moment, take a chance, make a statement
Fuel the passion in your soul

REFRAIN:
Listen to your heart
Don't you hesitate to seek your fate
You are destined to make a change

CHORUS:
Stand up, be proud
You stand out
Choose to let your beauty shine
Speak up and shout
Speak your mind
Let the world know who you are

Your turn has come
The world is waiting
See all your dreams begin unfolding
Break out and break free
Be true to who you are

Feel the yearning in your heart
Eager to make a difference and be more of who you are
Choose to live life's passions
Embrace your beauty, ambitions
Live to touch another soul

REFRAIN:
Listen to your heart
Don't you hesitate to seek your fate
You are destined to make a change

CHORUS:
Stand up, be proud
You stand out
Let your Girl Power shine
Speak up and shout
Speak your mind
Let the world know who you are

Your turn has come
The world is waiting
See all your dreams
begin unfolding
Break out and break free
Be true to who you are
(Repeat CHORUS)

Power & Beauty at Watsons

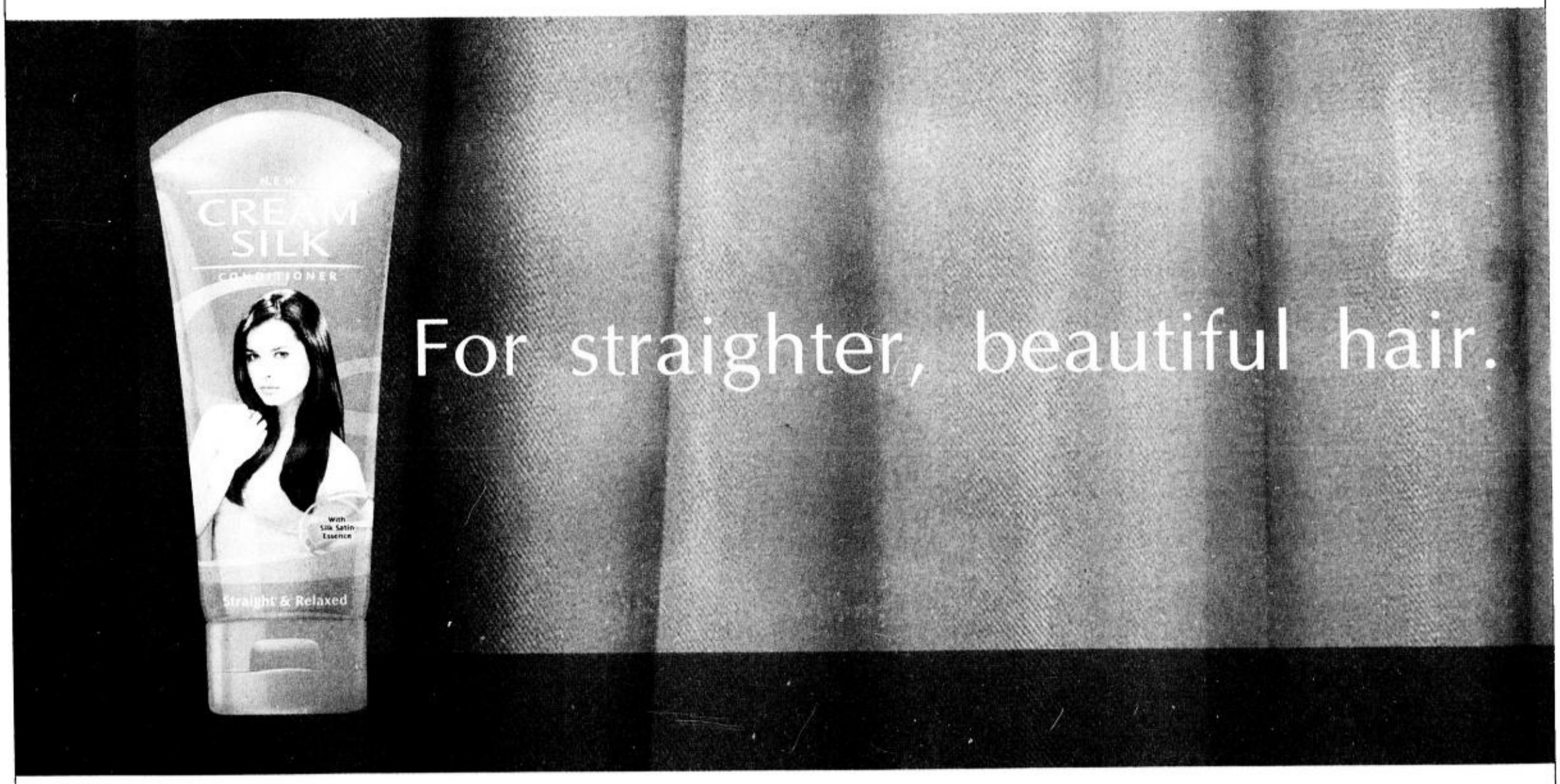
As every Filipina's beauty hub, Watsons Personal Care Store partners with new Pink Cream Silk to provide all empowered women a whole host of Pink Power, Girl Power Treats. Women can avail of free samples of Pink Cream Silk from Watsons by simply texting Girl Power to 2966. And to experience even more Power and Beauty, shoppers can grab hold of the exclusive Watsons Discount on all Pink Cream Silk tubes until September 30, 2006. So come choose power and beauty with Pink Cream Silk and Watsons!

Celebrate Girl Power with Straighter, Beautiful Hair

Women today are stepping up and taking on tough challenges that were once only delegated to men. Whether it's a crucial position in the corporate world or a physically-demanding sport, the modern woman keeps up and plays hard. She's competent and competitive. She knows what she wants and makes it happen. But at the end of the day, she knows that there should be no trade-offs between a girl's passion to succeed in a man's world, and being beautiful especially with straighter, beautiful hair.

From the world hair expert ELIDA comes New Cream Silk Straight & Relaxed Conditioner. It contains a unique, revitalizing formula infused with Silk Satin Essence that deeply moisturizes coarse dry hair and relaxes hard-to-control natural waves, transforming them to straighter-looking well behaved locks. Add to that its fun, refreshing scent, and you get amazingly beautiful hair that smells as great as it looks, all day long!

So go ahead and be all that you can be, all the while remaining beautiful with your straighter, beautiful hair only with new Cream Silk Straight & Relaxed Conditioner!



Choose Power & Beauty. Text **GIRL POWER** to 2966 and get a **FREE** treat from Cream Silk.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0829 s. of 2006

OPINION / A10

Ramon Farolan: We send contingents to other lands to help in humanitarian missions. Why can't we get our military more involved in community-building programs here at home?

WORLD / A20

After 9 months adrift at sea, 3 fishermen return to Mexico as folk heroes; some, however, doubt their story

LIFESTYLE / C1

The day hell bloweth over: A Filipino journalist recounts the ordeal of Katrina survivors

For religious geeks: A Bible in your laptop

By Christian V. Esguerra

NOW YOU CAN INSTALL THE BIBLE IN YOUR laptop or PC and read it at home or in a cyber café.

An "e-Bible," translated in seven Philippine languages, is now available in CD format from the Philippine Bible Society.

This is the group's way of making the Scrip-

FOR RELIGIOUS/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARL[illegible] VIEWS
Sunday, August 27, 2006 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 260 P18 website: www.inq7.net

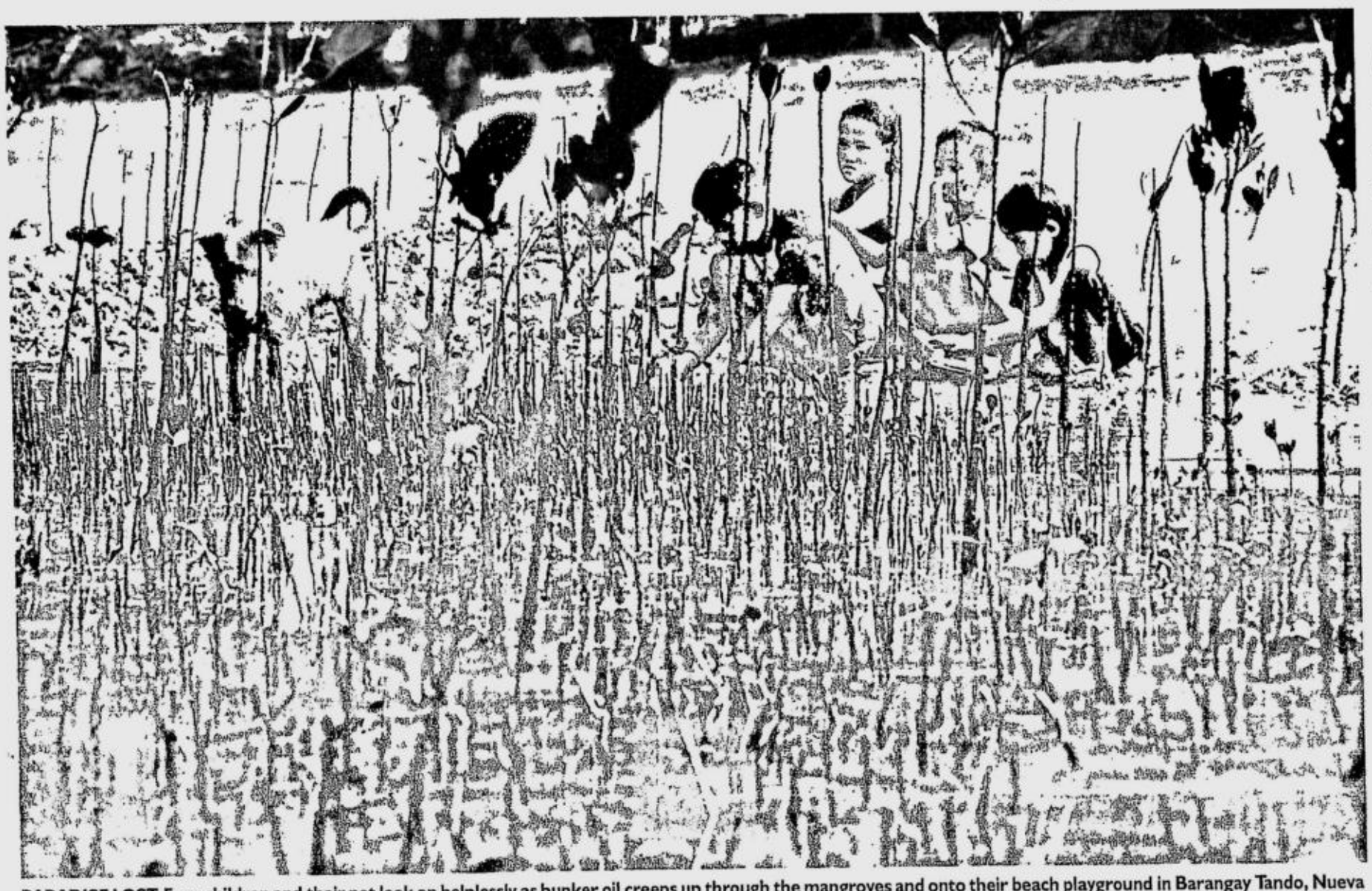
Disney invites Pluto to join Seven Dwarfs

LOS ANGELES—PLUTO may have been cast out to the darkest reaches of the solar system but it will always be a friend to the Seven Dwarfs.

The Walt Disney Co. characters issued a hard-hitting statement

DISNEY/ A4

Fast action vs spill urged



PARADISE LOST. Four children and their pet look on helplessly as bunker oil creeps up through the mangroves and onto their beach playground in Barangay Tando, Nueva Valencia, on the stricken Guimaras Island. EDWIN BACASMAS

GMA orders DOJ to join probe to find culprit

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

APPALLED BY THE DEVASTATION it has wrought and the misery it has inflicted on people, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday demanded swift action from Petron Corp., the shipowner and government agencies to clean up the ecological mess caused by the massive oil slick from a sunken tanker.

A day after declaring the Guimaras oil spill a national calamity, Ms Arroyo ordered the Department of Justice to join the investigation and find out what happened and "who is responsible" for the calamity.

Environmentalists have expressed fears of a bigger economic and ecological disaster in Western Visayas considering that 1.7 million liters of bunker fuel are believed still trapped in the belly of the sunken MT Solar I, which went down off Guimaras Island 15 days ago.

"I am personally pressing our government, Petron, the shipowner and every responsible party to move quickly and decisively to clean up this eco-mess," Ms Arroyo said in a speech during a visit to Nueva Valencia, the hardest-hit town on Guimaras Island, to personally assess the situation and lead the cleanup and relief efforts.

"We want to make sure the sunken tanker is secured, the fuel safely off loaded and this accident comes to a rapid conclusion."

Ms Arroyo expressed how "saddened I am to see our beautiful beaches besmirched by this accident and the pain I feel for the men and women who are in harm's way and who have had their health and livelihood affected."

Presidential Management Staff chief Arthur Yap said the estimated 15 percent of oil that had leaked out of the tanker had already affected Guimaras Island's ecosystem—66 sq km of sea, 220 km of coastline, 1,143 ha of a national marine reserve and 454 ha of mangroves—as well as its people's livelihood, from fishing to tourism due to the massive cancellation of bookings.

"There are still 1.7 million liters inside the cargo hold slowly leaking out which is why locating the sunken tanker and either plugging it up or raising the oil up is very high on our must-do list. The final

FAST/ A6

WHAT'S INSIDE

Gay games, 'out' sports

LIFESTYLE / C5

For Keeps

LIFESTYLE AT HOME / E1

No parties for this royal: Andrea of

Monaco would rather visit poor in Payatas than hobnob with the elite

METRO / A18

5 going on 'forever'

ENTERTAINMENT / G1

Satellite spots new oil slick near Guimaras

By Norman Bordadora

EVEN BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT could contain the disastrous oil spill off Guimaras Island, what appeared to be signs of another oil slick have been spotted by an environment watchdog in the Visayan Sea, another area rich in aquatic resources.

World Wildlife Fund for Nature in the Philippines (WWF-Philippines) said a satellite image it had received from the Canadian space agency Radarsat showed a 16-sq-km slick in the Visayan Sea.

Lorenzo Tan, president of WWF-Philippines, said Petron Corp. was conducting an aerial survey to find out whether or not the slick came from the MT Solar I which Petron had chartered and which sank southwest of Guimaras Island on Aug. 11.

"There is a protocol on oil finger printing. What they will do is take samples from the oil slick in the Visayan Sea and the one in Guimaras and compare if they came from the same source," Tan told the INQUIRER.

Tan said it was highly probable that the oil came from the sunken vessel in Guimaras.

"It's all just common sense. One, Guimaras was the only oil spill we had in the past two weeks. Two, it's consistent with the flow of the water current. It's also consistent with the flow of the *habagat* (southwest monsoon) that blows in a northeasterly direction," he said.

"This can just be the cause of a leak," he added.

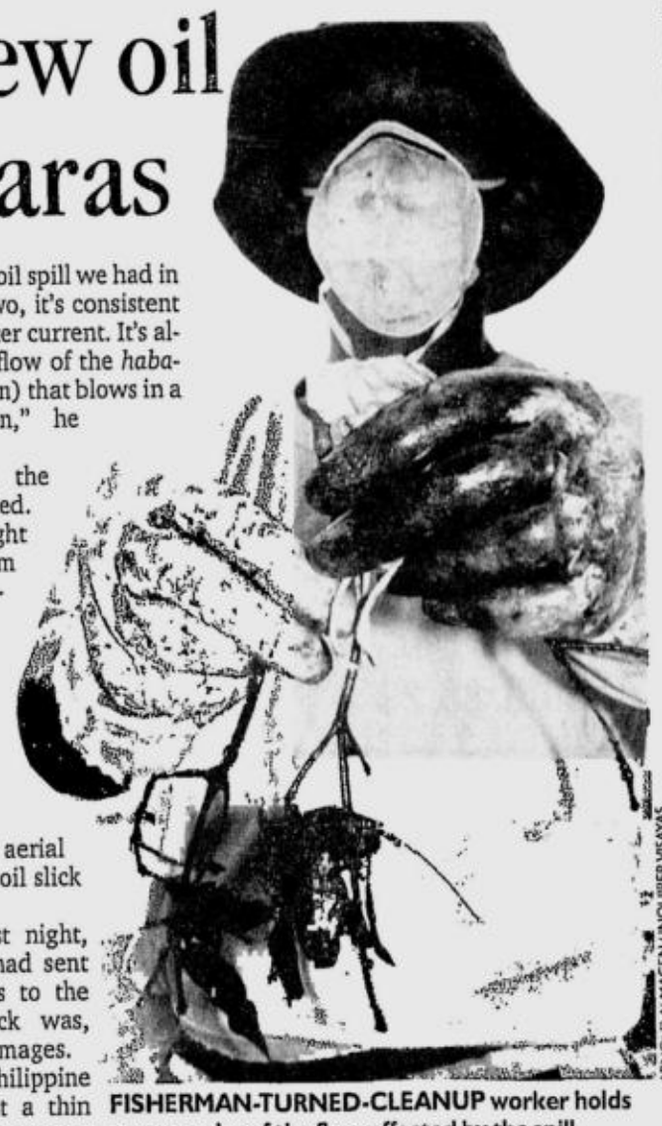
Tan said Petron bought the satellite image from Radarsat, which regularly supplies WWF-Philippines with such images.

He said WWF received the image and processed it before passing it on to the oil refiner. Petron then conducted an aerial survey to confirm the oil slick in the Visayan Sea.

In a statement last night, Petron confirmed it had sent out boats and planes to the area where the slick was, based on the satellite images.

"According to the Philippine Coast Guard, it's just a thin

SATELLITE/ A6



FISHERMAN-TURNED-CLEANUP worker holds up examples of the flora affected by the spill. ARNOLD ALMACEN / INQUIRER VISAYAS

Comelec says SC injunction vs initiative stands

By Jerome Aning and Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS will go by the existing Supreme Court ruling barring the election agency from acting on any petition for a people's initiative to amend the Constitution in the absence of an enabling law.

"The decision of the Supreme Court, till it is reversed, remains a law that everyone should abide by," Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. told reporters yesterday.

However, Abalos would not say categorically whether the Comelec would reject outright the people's initiative petition filed by Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines the other day.

He said the Comelec action would ultimately depend on whether the Supreme Court would allow it to finally consider the petition for a people's initiative to change the form of government to a parliamentary-unicameral system.

"We accepted [the filing of the initiative] as part of our ministerial job. We will endorse the petition to our law department for verification. And after verification, the petition will be sent to the Comelec en banc for disposal," he said.

Senators, who will be the first to lose their jobs if the presidential-bicameral system is junked through a people's initiative, yesterday crossed party lines to denounce what they called a "well-funded, illegal and brazen" move to change the Constitution.

They are now counting on the Supreme Court, if not the Comelec, to strike down the petition.

In 1997, the high tribunal ruled that the existing law on referendums or initiatives, the Initiative or Referendum Act, or RA 6735 which Congress passed in 1989, was inadequate. Therefore, it said, the Comelec may not entertain any petitions for an initiative on constitutional amendments.

Abalos said that if the Comelec were to entertain the petition at all, it would not verify each of the 8.9 million signatures submitted by Sigaw and Ulap but only those of the local election officers who issued the certifications of verification.

Under RA 6735, the power of the people to directly propose and approve any changes to the Constitution through the system of initiatives or referendums would need the signatures of 12 percent of the total number of voters nationwide, and three percent of every congressional

COMELEC/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Northern Mindanao, Visayas and Bicol region including Quezon, Aurora and Mindoro province which may trigger flash floods andlandslides.

COMPILED BY CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/08/27/06 SOURCE PAGASA

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2006

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

'Pinning killings on GMA killed case'

By Norman Bordadora

THE INCLUSION IN THE IMPEACHMENT COMplaint of allegations blaming President Macapagal-Arroyo for the spate of political killings could have weakened the second bid of the opposition to unseat her, a lawyers group said yesterday.

The Competent and Responsible Educators for Understanding the Law said the part of the complaint on extrajudicial killings could have convinced House members to junk it because it would have been difficult to pin down the President on the allegation that she had ordered the executions of more than 700 people.

"Blaming the President for the deaths of militant leaders was a "tough act" because the complainants would have had to prove that all of these killings were perpetrated by the government and, more importantly, that Ms Arroyo had "willfully intended" to have them killed," said lawyer Zosimo Alegre, Careful spokesperson.

"Holding the President responsible for the yet unsolved killings of members of dissident groups is too stretched an allegation that would be extremely hard to establish with solid evidence, given that other parties with their own agendas or personal grudges to settle with the victims could be behind these assassinations," Alegre said.

The group's assessment came in the wake of Thursday's 173-32 vote by the House of Representatives to throw out the second impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo in as many years for lack of substance.

"The inclusion of this alleged cause of action in the second impeachment complaint had apparently helped prompt certain members of the House justice committee to vote against it on the ground that it was sufficient in form but actually insufficient in substance," Alegre said.

Alegre said that an objective view of the cases involving the murders of dissidents could raise a number of possibilities as to who or what group might be behind them.

Although a number of killings could have been committed by certain elements of the military or police force, Alegre said it was also probable that others could have been done by either of these groups: (1) persons out to settle personal grudges not in any way related to the political leanings of the victims, (2) shadowy groups out to destabilize the government, (3) ultra-rightist forces in the military, and (4) communist elements themselves executing their allies in the open Left who either wanted to leave the movement or were guilty of "crimes" like extortion and absconding with funds.

"If proving that all of the 700 killings being cited by the pro-impeachment group were all state-sponsored acts of violence is already one tough act, then providing evidence that would directly link Ms Arroyo to all of them appears next to impossible," Alegre said.

"The blanket allegations against the President on these killings are stretched too thinly that it already broke even before it could pass the scrutiny of the House justice committee," Alegre said.

House revives celebration of Arbor Day

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTAtives has approved on final reading a bill reviving Arbor Day, which is dedicated to promoting large-scale tree-planting and increasing public awareness of the importance of trees to human life, health and the environment.

Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte, the author of House Bill 3821, said the measure would require the country's provinces, cities and municipalities to declare an Arbor Day through appropriate proclamations by their leaders.

Local governments may fix the suitable date every calendar year, and decide whether or not to declare it a public holiday in their areas. They will also be required to create Arbor Day celebrations committees.

"Arbor Day is a grand opportunity for everyone, including homeowners and business entities, to take stock of the trees in their properties and communities, and to plan how to best propagate and care for trees," Villafuerte said in a statement.

He said the first Arbor Day was marked on April 10, 1872, in Nebraska. It was the brainchild of Julius Sterling Morton, a journalist who launched the first community-based tree-planting campaign, and who later became President Grover Cleveland's secretary of agriculture.

"Arbor" is Latin for "tree." The first Arbor Day was an astounding success, with more than one million trees planted in Nebraska, Villafuerte said.

Morton's idea inspired other states so that all 50 states in the US eventually proclaimed their own Arbor Day.

In 1970, President Richard Nixon declared the last Friday of April as National Arbor Day.

"Trees are vital cogs of nature's air purification process. They are our natural air conditioners and air purifiers, and our built-in energy-saving devices," Villafuerte said.

"Clearly, our atmosphere today would be far more heated, and our air far more lethal, if not for what is left of our trees," he said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources launched on Friday the Green Philippine Highways program, which aims to tap two million volunteers to plant a record 50 million trees on both sides of major thoroughfares, from Laoag City in the north to Davao City in the south.

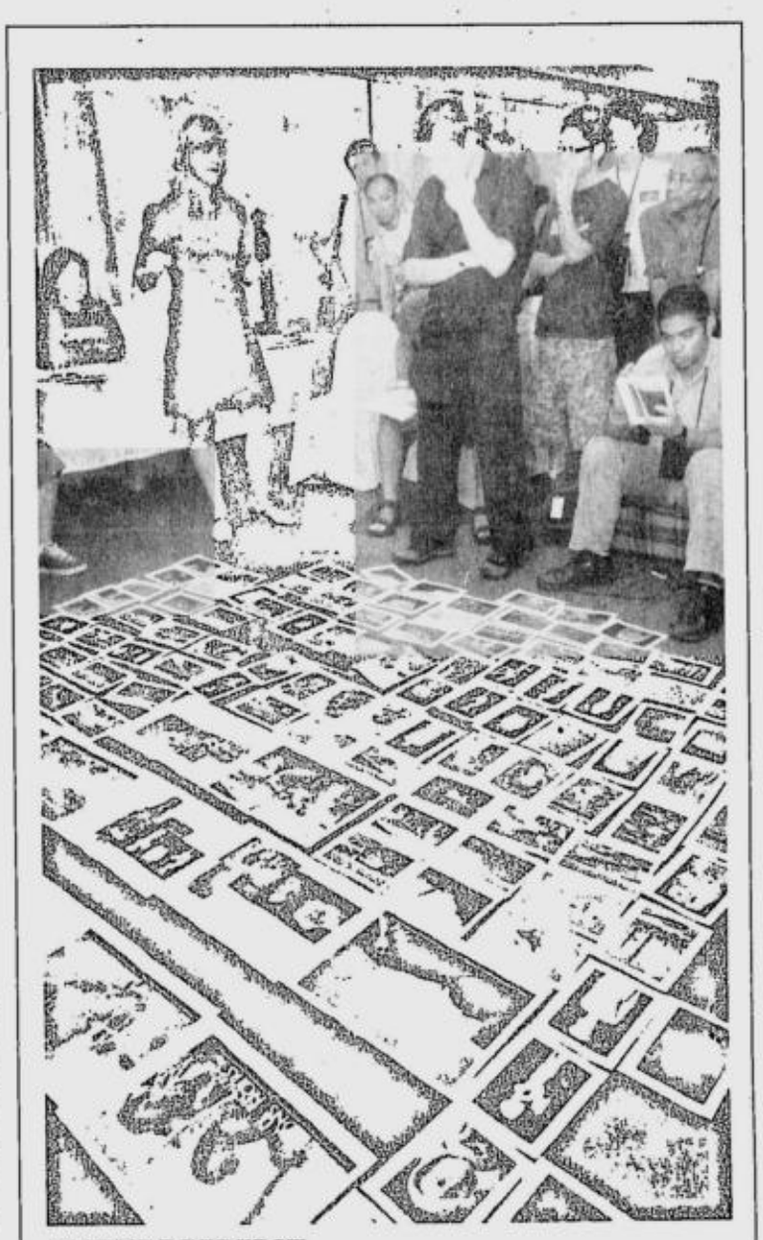
Arbor Day is also celebrated in varying ways in Australia, Canada, China, Iceland, India, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia.

With the Philippine National Construction Corporation (PNCC) embarking on a major upgrading of the South Luzon Expressway, a DENR official reminded the state-run company not to cut the trees that will be affected by the expansion.

The 24-km stretch of highway between Alabang and Calamba City is mainly planted to decades-old mahogany, acacia and agojo trees, according to Antonio Principe, DENR regional executive director for Calabarzon.

Instead of cutting, the PNCC is being asked to "ball" the trees and plant them elsewhere.

Balling is a method of saving mature trees by completely "burrowing" their roots and transplanting them to another location. *With Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*



PICTURE PERFECT

Magdalena Herrera (left, standing), art director and head of photography for National Geographic, presents examples of picture-stories in the international magazine during her lecture on The Role of Picture Editors, during the Asia-Europe Forum for Young Photographers held recently at the Bayview Park Hotel. The INQUIRER was one of the sponsors of the forum. RYAN LIM

Canceled visit won't dampen ardor for princess

MABALACAT, PAMPANGA—VICtims of contamination from toxic wastes left in the former US military bases in this region were not able to see the son of their benefactor, Princess Caroline, but still the memory of the charm and generosity of the royal from Monaco remains unblemished.

Princess Caroline's son, Andrea Pierre Casiraghi, was scheduled to visit the Madapdap resettlement here on Saturday but the event was canceled.

About 200 toxic waste victims and their relatives waited at a church in Madapdap for the meeting with the 22-year-old Casiraghi. In Subic, where he was also supposed to proceed, more than 300 people gathered for a short program.

"Of course, we were saddened that we did not get to see the princess' son. We did some preparations to relay our thanks to his mother. Even so, we still love the princess," said Virginia Pangan, a local leader of the People's Task Force for Bases Cleanup.

"There was a change in his schedule," said Myrla Baldonado, president of the Alliance for Bases Cleanup.

Had Casiraghi been able to keep to the schedule, his visit would have happened almost two years after Princess Caroline visited the resettlement site on Nov. 24, 2004.

During that visit, the princess held hands with sick children and embraced some of them, touching the hearts of residents.

Princess Caroline stayed just an hour but enough to make the visit memorable. She flashed a smile that, as one mother put it, "spread hope and courage."

Aside from the medical missions that Princess Caroline supports here through the Virlanie Foundation, Pangan said, the princess also wrote US President George W. Bush to draw his attention to the poor health of children exposed to toxic wastes left at the former Clark Air Base in Pampanga and Subic Naval Base in Zambales.

Baldonado said there was a "huge body of evidence of contamination" at Clark, at Subic and other American bases shut down starting in 1991 on the heels of the Senate's rejection of the extension of the 1947 Philippine-US military bases agreement. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

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Women broadcasters come together for Greg Cendaña

By Fe B. Zamora

CENDAÑA

ONLY GREG CENDAÑA could have pulled it off.

At his wake at Funeraria Paz in Quezon City Friday night, the country's top women TV broadcasters led by Korina Sanchez and Mel Tiangco took time off from their jobs to pay homage to the man who started them off on rewarding careers in television.

Cendaña, who was information minister from 1970 to 1986 during the Marcos regime, passed away Friday morning at the Philippine Heart Center after suffering cardiac arrest. He was 76.

Cendaña was also head of the government-owned Channel 4 television, which was the biggest network during the martial law years and was the training ground for broadcast talents, especially women.

"Let it be said without any exaggeration that the country's top women TV anchors had their beginnings in Channel 4 under Minister Cendaña," said Jess Matubis, former news director at Channel 4.

Sanchez anchors the evening newscast Bandila on Channel 2, while Tiangco anchors the rival Channel 7's evening newscast 24 Oras.

Broadcast journalists Ces Drilon and Doris Bigornia and newscaster Thelma Dumpit also started at Channel 4, Matubis said.

Rita Gaddi and Freddie Abando, who also did newscasts over Channel 4, paid tribute to Cendaña with a short note in the guest book: "Thank you for the finest moments of our broadcast careers. May the heavens welcome you joyously the way your life was lived."

Matubis said former Sen. Loren Legarda was a newscaster at the government-owned Channel 9 and also did newscasts for Cendaña at Channel 4. Tina Monzon-Palma was an established radio announcer then who shifted to television at the National Media Production Center (NMPC), the state-owned production outfit that Cendaña also headed.

Matubis said Cendaña gathered practically all the broadcasters who had lost their jobs when martial law was declared by President Ferdinand Marcos in September 1972 and employed them at Channel 4 and NMPC.

"He told us it was better than going underground," Matubis said with a laugh.

He said Cendaña was both a "slave driver and a caring father who expected us to work 24 hours."

"He was always saying that the deadline was yesterday," Matubis said.

He said Cendaña also started the so-called development communication by producing cultural, educational and public affairs shows and having them simulcast over all the TV and radio stations nationwide.

An example of this was the Bulong-Pulong sa Kaunlaran which was aired every Wednesday at 7 p.m. all over the country.

In the program, Matubis said topics such as land reform, education, health and culture were "discussed and explained to the public."

With then First Lady Imelda Marcos, Cendaña also packaged developmental shows and brought these to the rural areas through mobile vans and Betamax videotapes, Matubis said.

Cendaña's remains will be brought to San Nicolas, Pangasinan, his hometown, on Aug. 29. He will be buried there on Aug. 31.

Habacon exit leaves one "Hello Garci" general

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE SO-CALLED "HELLO GARCI" generals are fading away one by one.

Armed Forces Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon, one of those linked to the "Hello Garci" election fraud scandal, is retiring on Monday, Aug. 28, two weeks early because of the splitting of the Southcom.

Habacon, whose appointment as Southcom chief last January was marked by controversy, was supposed to retire on Sept. 9.

His retirement leaves AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. as the "last man standing" of the "Hello Garci" generals.

Habacon, Esperon, ex-Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko (ret.) and Marine Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani (ret.) were mentioned in the alleged wiretapped phone conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano at the height of the vote canvassing for the May 2004 elections.

Kyamko had retired by the time the tapes surfaced in June 2005.

Gudani, who was mentioned in the tapes as being pro-opposition, retired in October 2005 after exposing alleged election cheating in Lanao del Sur in a Senate investigation. He and Marine Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan are facing possible court-martial for ignoring orders not to appear at the Senate hearing.

The "Hello Garci" label, meanwhile, stuck on Habacon and Esperon even after they were cleared early this year by a military fact-finding board headed by Navy Flag Officer in Command Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga which did not fully disclose its findings to the public Esperon continued to vehemently deny any involvement in election cheating after he was named AFP chief of staff on July 21.

Habacon belongs to the Philippine Military Academy Class 1973, along with Mayuga, Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes and former Central Command chief Lt. Gen. Samuel Bagasin (ret.).

Bagasin was supposed to assume the post of Southcom chief in September 2005 were it not for last-minute lobbying purportedly by Habacon.

Habacon denied lobbying for the post. But he was named Southcom chief in January even though he had less than a year left in the service and thus could no longer be promoted to the next rank.

Habacon's appointment was among the issues raised by disgruntled junior officers who mounted a coup attempt on Feb. 24.

"He (Habacon) decided to retire early due to personal reasons. He may have planned it earlier," Southcom spokesperson Col. Susthenes Valcorza said in a phone interview.

Valcorza, however, conceded that Southcom's split may have prompted Habacon's early retirement. "It could be one of the reasons," he said.

Southcom, which counts about 60 percent of the 120,000-strong military force, will be split into the Eastern Mindanao Command which will be based in Davao City and the Western Mindanao Command whose headquarters will be in Zamboanga City.

Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Obaniana will head the Eastern Mindanao command while Maj. Gen. Eugenio Cedo will head the Western Mindanao command.

Obaniana used to lead the Army's 6th Infantry Division while Cedo used to head the 1st Infantry Division.

Esperon, Obaniana and Cedo belong to PMA Class 1974, along with Army chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino and newly appointed deputy chief of staff for plans and programs (J5) Maj. Gen. Ferdinand Bocobo.

According to Esperon, the split would allow military forces to focus on fighting the Abu Sayyaf and the Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist groups in the west, and the communist New People's Army in the east.

German bank says Mike A has no acc't

A BANK IN GERMANY HAS CERTIFIED THAT the family of President Macapagal-Arroyo has no account with them, contrary to claims by an opposition congressman, a lawyer for the Arroyo family said yesterday.

Lawyer Romulo Macalintal did not say whether the Arroyo family will make good on an earlier threat to sue opposition Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano for saying they had hundreds of millions of dollars with the HypoVereinsbank.

Cayetano made the claim during debates on the impeachment complaint against the President over accusations—all denied by Ms Arroyo—such as rigging the 2004 election, violating the Constitution and committing corruption and human rights abuses.

The impeachment bid was thrown out by the President's congressional allies on Thursday.

Macalintal traveled with Ms Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, to Munich where they obtained a letter from bank officials saying the account number mentioned by Cayetano did not exist and that there was no account in the name of Ms Arroyo's husband.

However, no certification was given for the President, her congressman-son and her brother-in-law, Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo.

In a statement, Mike Arroyo said: "We have accomplished our mission of truth. We will bring the truth back home so that the Filipinos will know that I am telling the truth and Cayetano is peddling lies and, the one who fabricates evidence."

Cayetano was unfazed and insisted Ms Arroyo and her husband sign a waiver that would allow the opposition to examine their bank accounts in the Philippines and abroad.

He said the Arroyos wanted to prove their innocence of alleged corruption "in a libel court instead of an impeachment court."

Speaking on dzRH radio from Munich, Macalintal said they were still considering a libel suit but would definitely file a complaint with the congressional ethics committee against Cayetano for violating good conduct by giving false statements.

He said the bank didn't have the account numbering system as disclosed by Cayetano, to whom they were willing to give a free ticket to join them in the trip to Germany.

"If Cayetano is still in doubt, we will be here until Monday and there is still time for him to come here," Macalintal said.

Cayetano refused to join the trip, saying it was a "media gimmick" that raised more questions such as why Mike Arroyo didn't just write to the bank for a certification and why didn't other family members also travel to Germany. *AP*

Greenpeace to Lafayette: So sue us

LEGAZPI CITY—GREENPEACE ACTIVISTS have dared Lafayette Phil. and Sorsogon provincial officials to file charges of trespassing and prove their accusations that the international environmental group was out to sabotage the mining firm.

"We challenge them to provide evidence and give the names of people they are accusing of sabotage," said Beau Baconquis, the Greenpeace campaigner for Southeast Asia.

Greenpeace members on board the group's campaign ship, the MV Esperanza, paid a visit to Lafayette's controversial copper and gold mine on Rapu-Rapu island off the coast of Albay province.

There, the Greenpeace ship, which is here as part of a global campaign to defend the oceans, led a protest flotilla organized by local communities demanding that the mine be closed down.

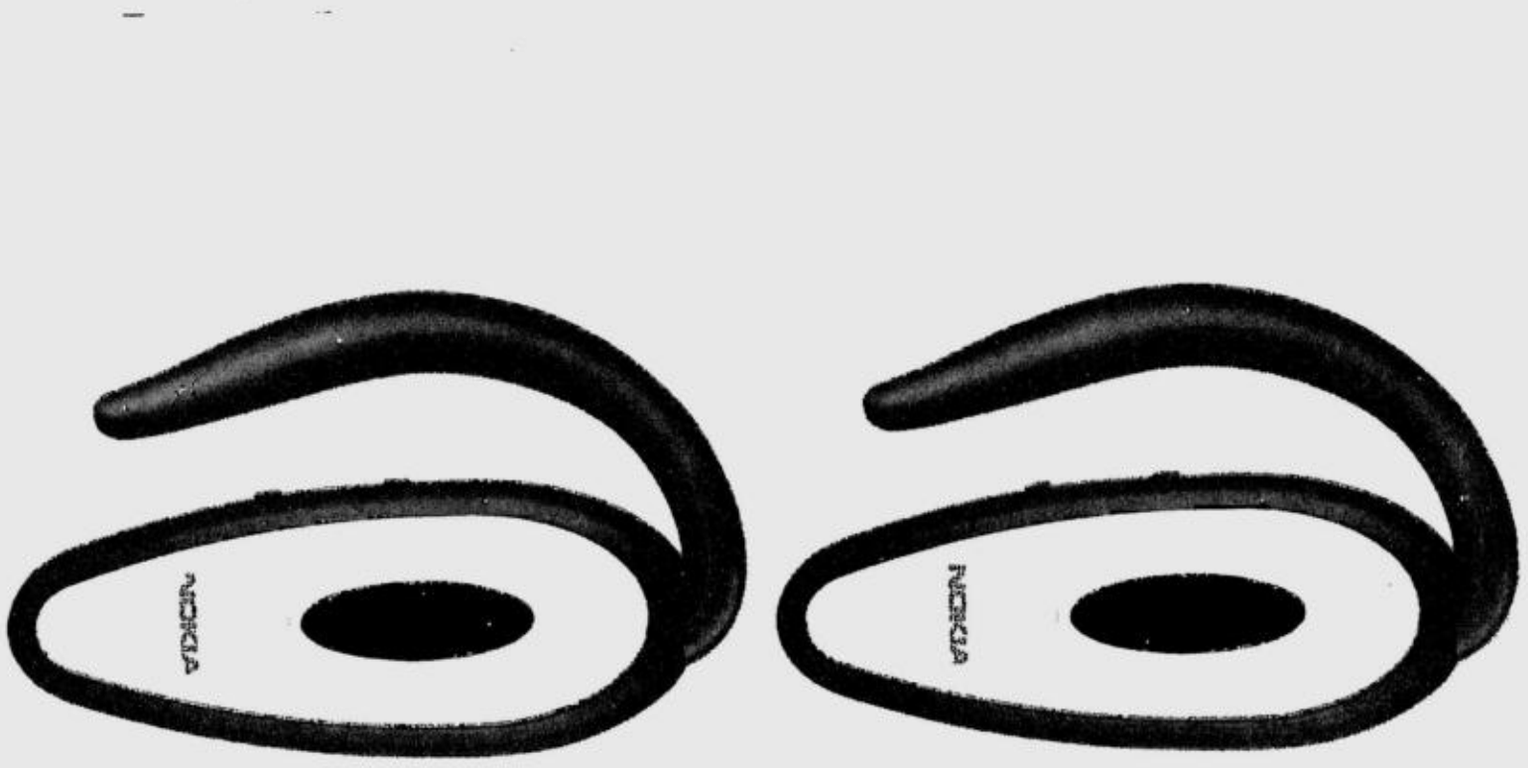
Last Thursday, Greenpeace released a statement claiming that tests conducted by its scientists confirmed "very high levels of toxic metals" in water samples collected from a creek allegedly contaminated by the Rapu-Rapu gold mine.

The next day, Lafayette Phil. countered with a press statement saying it would take legal action against Greenpeace for trespassing and demand the expulsion of three members who climbed on the company's conveyor belt on Thursday to unfurl antimining banners for a photo opportunity.

Said Bayani Agabin, Lafayette's legal counsel and spokesperson: "Greenpeace has gone out of bounds in its irresponsible and counterproductive photo-ops that unfortunately some media outlets fall for. Recently they misrepresented themselves at the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) head office so they could go up the roof deck so photographers they had in tow could take pictures."

Sorsogon Gov. Raul Lee has condemned the DENR incident. He said the antimining campaigners had become destructive and must be dealt with by the authorities.

Lafayette also cited an incident a few weeks ago in which "unidentified people poured a huge amount of pesticide into a creek that is the source of clean water for the residents and started sending out text messages that Lafayette was to blame." *Gina Rodriguez, INQUIRER Southern Luzon*



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For religious geeks . . .

From page A1

tures relevant amid widespread relativism, securalism and materialism—a global reality that worries no less than Pope Benedict XVI.

"We cannot allow the Holy Word to be left behind in these modern times," said the PBS in a statement. "If we are truly to engage our present society in the Word of God, we have to do it through all positive media that reach them, and one of these is, of course, the computer."

The e-Bible which comes in Tagalog, Cebuano, Bicol, Pangasinan, Pampango, Samarenyo and Hiligaynon can be purchased at the PBS office on Magsaysay Ave in Sta. Mesa, Manila, for P350.

It can also be had in the following versions: King James, English Standard, Contemporary English and Today's English or The Good News translation.

Each CD comes with a concordance, a mini-dictionary, a yearlong Bible reading plan and a notepad.

"[It is] easy to install and user-friendly; [it] maximizes the Scriptural resources that are available to us," the PBS said. "The world is becoming smaller and smaller like all the gadgets that are coming out in the market. We are running fast towards a complete digital and multimedia world, and it doesn't seem like we are going to be content with just that."

In the works is another e-Bible, this time in Greek (being the language of the earliest manuscripts) and Tagalog, according to Fr. Oscar Alunday, executive secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' Episcopal Commission on Biblical Apostolate.

Healing the country

Earlier, the PBS launched the Basic Ecclesial Community (BEC) Bibles written in Cebuano, Ilocano, Pangasinan, Pampango, Bicol, Samareno and Hiligaynon.

They targeted, not only the general Christian population, but also the BECs or the small community of believers in the rural areas.

In a previous interview with the INQUIRER, PBS consultant Dr. Ricardo Jumawan said the new Bible could help heal and transform a country wounded by conflicts and worsening poverty.

The new Bibles—selling for P150 a copy—were made available to every BEC in the country, in the hope of spreading God's Word.

Grassroots Bible

Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, chair of the CBCP-BEC, defined the BEC as a "small grassroots community of believers that brings together families and individuals in intimate personal and social relationships based on faith."

More popularly known as "Simbahan Sangakarrubaan, these communities now number around 50,000," Quevedo wrote in a document appended to the new Bible.

"They can be a group of 5 to 10 people in a squatter community or in a high-rise building on Ayala," explained France Torreja, marketing manager of PBS.

Through the Bible, ordinary Filipinos can become "agents of the gospel," according to Alunday.

The new Bible guides readers to this purpose through a section titled "Gospel Sharing Methods" or GSMs, which are different from the usual Bible study sessions.

GSMs focus on the "experiential aspect of the Word of God."

"It's the heart, not the mind, talking to another person," Alunday explained, adding that a group could read the Bible and then discuss how they could apply the teachings to their daily lives.

Popular with OFWs

The BEC Bible in Cebuano was launched late last year and was an instant success, selling out all 10,000 copies in just five months.

Copies, including the English version, have reached the Filipino communities in Europe.

There is a standing order for more copies in Germany, according to Alunday.

It helps that the new Bibles have a "word list" or glossary of terms such as Beelzebub, ephod and Zion. They also contain maps and a timeline of biblical events.

The Bibles are popular abroad because they help address a common sentiment of overseas Filipino workers.

"They complain that their hard-earned remittances are wasted by their families who have vices," Alunday said.

Reintroducing the OFWs' families to the Scriptures might bring them back to the right path, he said.

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Disney invites Pluto to join Seven Dwarfs

From page A1

after the International Astronomical Union shook up the solar system Thursday when it declared that Pluto was no longer part of the cosmic club and downgraded it to a "dwarf planet."

School textbooks would have to be rewritten—and Mickey Mouse's faithful companion, according to Disney insiders, was in anguish over the fate of his planetary namesake.

But the Seven Dwarfs were not take it lying down.

"Although we think it's DOPEY that Pluto has been downgraded to a dwarf planet, which has made some people GRUMPY and others just SLEEPY, we are not BASHFUL in saying we would be HAPPY if Disney's Pluto would join us as an eighth dwarf," they insisted. "We think this is just what the DOC ordered and is nothing to SNEEZE at."

Disney's Pluto (the dog) made his debut in 1930—the same year that a 24-year-old American astronomer, Clyde Tombaugh, discovered what until now was called the ninth and outermost planet.

A white-gloved, yellow-shoed source close to Disney's top dog said: "I think the whole thing is goofy.

"Pluto has never been interested in astronomy before, other than maybe an occasional howl at the moon."

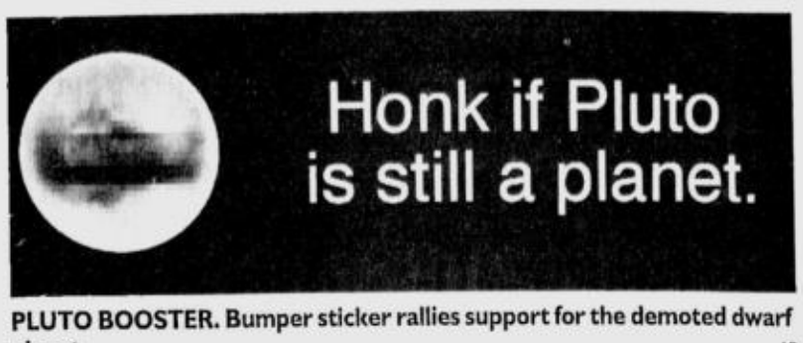
Mickey Mouse was unavailable for comment.

Vote for Pluto

Scores of Web-savvy sellers hoping to support Pluto and cash in on its demotion to a "dwarf planet" had bombarded the Internet hawking memorabilia worthy of a presidential candidate, from T-shirts and mugs to bumper stickers and mouse pads.

On Cafepress.com, a San Francisco-area Internet company that prints T-shirts and other merchandise, an explosion of Pluto inventory popped up within 24 hours of the news. By Friday morning, the site featured 200 designs on more than 1,500 products.

Many items and slogans fretted over Pluto's demise and pined for the return of the obsolete nine-planet solar system. T-shirts screamed "Save Pluto" and "Stop Planetary Discrimination" while bumper stickers rallied "PLUTO 2006: Running as an Independent Candidate" and "Vote for Pluto."



PLUTO BOOSTER. Bumper sticker rallies support for the demoted dwarf planet. AP

Others were more wistful. "Pluto, we hardly knew ye ... 1930-2006" was available on adult and kid's apparel as well as caps and bags.

Bumper stickers

Los Angeles-based Web programmer Chris Spurgeon took 15 minutes to design a bumper sticker on the site featuring a Hubble Space Telescope image and the slogan "Honk if Pluto is still a planet."

"I'm not burning with anger about the Pluto decision, but it has touched a nerve with a lot of people," said Spurgeon, 51, whose own car is plastered with bumper stickers.

On Friday morning, Spurgeon had received 100 orders for his bumper stickers, which cost $4 (P205) each. He plans to donate the money to the Planetary Society, a space advocacy group.

Cafepress.com spokesperson Marc Cowlin said the spike in Pluto-related products probably reflected people's dismay. He said the Pluto items were "hot," but it's too early to tell how well they would sell.

"Pluto is a planet we've known all our lives and suddenly it's not. People are taken by surprise," Cowlin said.

Cultural loss

Jennifer Vaughn of the Planetary Society was unfazed to see the surge in Pluto merchandise given the sentimental attachment to the former ninth rock from the sun.

"The public has certainly supported Pluto as a planet," Vaughn said. "They see it as a bit of a cultural loss."

In 1999, when Pluto's planethood was threatened, a barrage of letters from schoolchildren worldwide prompted the professional astronomers' group to issue a rare public statement affirming Pluto's status. It's too early to know how the latest rally around Pluto would affect its demotion, if at all.

No more Pizzas

Meanwhile, Pluto's demotion could spell confusion in learning the solar system.

"My Very Excellent Mother Just Sent Us Nine Pizzas" was a popular mnemonic that helped millions of people learn the names of the planets in the solar system—Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto.

With tiny Pluto downgraded to a dwarf, the mnemonic was spoiled.

How will students learn the planets? Here are some possibilities:

- My Very Extravagant Mother Just Sent Us Nachos.
- My Very Elderly Mother Just Sits Up Nights.
- Major Volcanoes Erupt, Making Jolts, Shaking Unsteadying Nerves.
- Make Very Extraordinary Meals of Jell-O, Strawberries and Unsalted Nuts.
- Mary's Violet Eyes Make Jack Stare Until Noticed.
- My Very Exotic Mistress Just Showed Up Nude (perhaps this one is for college lads). *AFP and AP*

Comelec says SC injunction vs initiative stands

From page A1

district.

Sigaw ng Bayan leader Raul Lambino said the election officers were able to verify six million signatures, which represents 14 percent of the total voting population.

University of the Philippines professor Rene Azurin, a member of the One Voice citizens' group which is opposed to the people's initiative, said an outright rejection by the Comelec would be of strategic advantage to the Cha-cha advocates as it would mean the issue would go straight to the SC which would then make an early decision on whether or not to reverse the 1997 ruling.

Reckless disregard

Senators pointed out that a people's initiative could only be used to propose amendments, not the revision of the Charter which they said was the case in the Sigaw/Ulap petition seeking a change in the form of government.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said that as a public official he felt it was his solemn duty to "oppose this brazen and reckless disregard of the fundamental law."

"This organized and well-funded disregard of our fundamental law is the most serious attack thus far on Philippine democracy since the coup attempts of the late 1980s. Ultimately we hope the Supreme Court will step in and save Philippine constitutional democracy as we know it from this assault," Pangilinan said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the issue would ultimately reach the high court because if the Comelec validates the petition, those opposed to it would elevate the matter to the Supreme Court.

ABALOS: SC decision "remains a law."

DE VENECIA: "Last chance for change."

"The filing of the petition is nothing but another bullying tactic by Malacañang through its front group, Sigaw ng Bayan, to show its power and influence over our democratic institutions," said opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Administration Sen. Joker Arroyo expressed optimism the high court would uphold its earlier ruling.

Unrealistic

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara said senators were not opposed to Charter change per se but only to the timing, the method and the proposal to abolish the Senate.

In the unicameral system being proposed by Sigaw/Ulap, the Senate will be abolished to give way to a single legislature.

Angara said that for the Senate to agree to convene as a constituent assembly with the House, this proposal should be shelved.

"That is unrealistic. And the public won't accept it," he said, saying a second chamber was important to serve as a check to the other chamber.

Angara, who is for Charter change and a parliamentary system, said Cha-cha was "dead" as far as timing was concerned because there simply was not enough time to do it.

He said he preferred for the Charter to be amended after the 2007 elections so that the new Congress would be the one to convene itself as a constituent assembly.

House Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday said Charter change was the country's "last chance for change" to break the "deadlock in our democracy" and end the political standoff between the Senate and Malacañang.

'No coup, no impeachment'

De Venecia said Cha-cha would free the country from "any destabilizing coup attempts or frequent impeachment crises."

He said that historically, there have been no coup attempts or impeachment crises "in all the successful parliamentary governments in Europe and Asia."

De Venecia warned that the Philippines was lagging behind its neighbors in Southeast Asia economically and further risked "being overtaken by the poorer countries of the region and of South Asia."

He said the latest public opinion surveys had determined that more Filipinos were now in favor of Charter change and "have endorsed the people's initiative as the most favored mode of introducing amendments."

He said recent surveys also showed that support for a constitutional convention had fallen, that it was "the least favored" means of revising the Constitution.

Best features

The Speaker said that if the proposed amendment was carried, the Philippines would adopt the best features of the parliamentary governments of Europe and Asia and those of the US-style federal system.

"Eventually, we will have to evolve our own indigenous system that will suit the Filipinos' culture best," De Venecia said.

Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez yesterday said the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' position on Charter change remained the same: "We are against this present move for Cha-cha."

He called on the public to be vigilant against the "powers-that-be" who he said were behind the initiative.

"As we know in our country, there are many powerful people maneuvering events that are happening. That's what we feel happened to the impeachment complaint [against President Macapagal-Arroyo] and that's what's happening also now with regard to Cha-cha," he told reporters.

In a pastoral letter it issued last June, the CBCP said there should be widespread public discussion of the proposed changes and that this would be best done through a constitutional convention. *With a report from Philip Tubeza*

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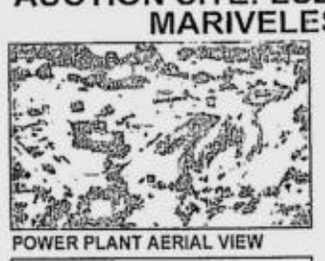
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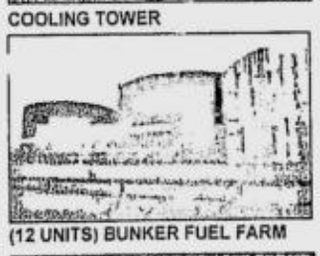
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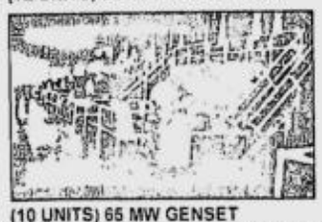
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MEDICard - Sanyo Capacitor Signing

Sanyo Capacitor Phils. Corp., one of the leaders in manufacturing quality and globally competitive capacitors, recently signed its corporate healthcare agreement with MEDICard Philippines. (seated L-R) MEDICard's Dr. Voltaire R. Victoria (Sales & Business Dev't. Mngr.) and Luis S. Montoya (EVP & GM) with Sanyo's Masahide Ohashi (President) and Janette Lagazo (HRA-Asst. Mngr.). (standing L-R) MEDICard's Omar Catolos (Membership Consultant), Robert Chainani (Sr. Membership Consultant), Bernard Zulueta (Sr. Membership Consultant) and Sarie Francisco (Mktg. Asst.) with Sanyo's Bernadette Nocum (Company Nurse) and Monica Bulos (HRA-Jr. Supervisor).

ADVT.

Gonzalez: UP breeds destabilizers, naked runners

By Armand N. Nocum

THIS TIME JUSTICE SECRETARY Raul Gonzalez has picked on the University of the Philippines school system, saying it mainly produces militant protesters and fraternity men and women who run around the campus naked.

"That school breeds the destabilizers that haunt the country year after year. They are acting as if they are the only ones who know how to run the country," Gonzalez told the INQUIRER yesterday.

He made it clear, however, that he was not assailing the entire university population because "there are many students there who are bright and good."

Interviewed by phone while he was with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Guimaras, Gonzalez pointed to the Oblation run of the APO fraternity as another indication of the kind of students that came from UP.

GONZALEZ

"I doff my hat to them because they initiate the running of naked people... That's also one kind of culture that they develop there," he said, noting that women had begun to join the naked run as well which is held in December.

"Maybe we are going in that direction... there are now women running naked. I will not be surprised if they will go to school with only their books, nothing more," he said.

Gonzalez made the statements while lamenting that UP was the site of numerous protest rallies and symposia calling for the resignation of President Arroyo.

"In every storm that takes place, UP students are in the forefront," he said. "As a matter of fact, our history will show that since the martial law years, students from UP were the ones who went underground and fought the government. In fact, many of them went to China and never came back."

Bomb-making in labs

Gonzalez said he came to see the militant activism of UP students first-hand during the First Quarter Storm of 1970 when then Sen. Genaro Magsaysay formed a panel to look into the violent protests there and he saw pillbox bombs being assembled in the school laboratories.

He said this was not the way the students should repay the government for giving them a world-class education.

"They should consider the fact that the state is the one paying for their schooling. Why fight the state? Why try to bring it down. I think some degree of gratitude should be there also," he said.

He noted that UP had always been known as a "cradle of leadership" but he was worried that with the way some students there were acting, some serious questions would be raised about the "kind of leaders we will have in the future."

But he said he was "not degrading UP per se," but was only questioning the kind of students that came from it.

'I am well-behaved'

He said the matter of the high "tolerance to education freedom" should be raised to UP officials and teachers during the annual budget hearing for the school.

Asked what school he graduated from, Gonzalez replied: "University of Sto. Tomas... that's why I am well-behaved."

Gonzalez is known for speaking his mind on most issues and creating controversy.

Earlier, when he was asked if he was going to arrest the widow of the late presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. for inciting to sedition when she spoke out against President Arroyo, he said she was too pretty to be arrested.

Another time when it was revealed that he was undergoing dialysis for kidney stones, he said that was not what made him launch verbal tirades against critics of Ms Arroyo.

"What does [having the] balls [to say things] got to do with that?" he said when he was asked if the painful passing of stones in his urine was the reason he was grouchy to critics and media people.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, August 27, 2006
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18
Renewal at Shechem

Joshua summoned all the tribes of Israel in Shechem, and assembled the elders, leaders, judges and secretaries. And together they presented themselves before God.

Addressing the people, Joshua said to them: "Yahweh, the God of Israel, commands me to say to you: Your ancestors lived beyond the Euphrates River-Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor-serving other gods.

But if you do not want to serve Yahweh, make known this very day whom you shall serve-whether they be the gods your ancestors served in Mesopotamia or the gods of the Amorites who formerly occupied the land in which you now live. As for me, I and my household will serve Yahweh."

The people answered: "May God not permit that we ever abandon Yahweh to serve other gods! For it was he who brought us and our ancestors out of Egypt, the house of slavery. It was he who did those great wonders that we have seen; he protected us on the way and through all the land where we passed, driving away before us all the nations especially the Amorites who lived in this land. So we shall also serve Yahweh: he is our God!"

2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:21-32
Christian marriage

Let all kinds of submission to one another become obedience to Christ. So wives to their husbands: as to the Lord.

The husband is the head of his wife, as Christ is the head of the Church, his body, of whom he is also the Savior. And as the Church submits to Christ, so let a wife submit in everything to her husband.

As for you, husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her. He washed her and made her holy by baptism in the Word. As he wanted a radiant Church without stain or wrinkle or any blemish, but holy and blameless, he himself had to prepare and present her to himself.

In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they love their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. And no one has ever hated his body; he feeds and takes care of it. That is just what Christ does for the Church, because we are a part of his body.

Scripture says: Because of this a man shall leave his father and mother to be united with his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a very great mystery, and I refer to Christ and the Church.

Gospel: John 6:60-69
The challenge

After hearing his doctrine, many of Jesus' followers said, "This language is very hard! Who can accept it?"

Jesus was aware that his disciples were murmuring about this and so he said to them, "Does this offend you? Then how will you react when you see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh cannot help. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. But among you there are some who do not believe."

From the beginning, Jesus knew who would betray him. So he added, "As I have told you, no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

After this many disciples withdrew and no longer followed him. Jesus asked the Twelve, "Will you also go away?" Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We now believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Commentary

Joshua calls the people together and ritually demands to know where they stand before God. And the people proclaim that they will serve the Lord God as their ancestors were called to serve when brought out of Egypt into freedom. And we are to obey the Lord. Married couples are to obey the Lord and to love one another as God loved all of us. Each submits first to Christ and then together to Christ. Jesus' words are Spirit and life and yet there are many who leave Jesus because of his words. When asked why he stays, Simon Peter proclaims that they all have come to believe that Jesus is God's Holy One. Have we all come to believe that and do we obey and serve God alone, in Jesus' Body here on earth, or have we submitted ourselves to others?

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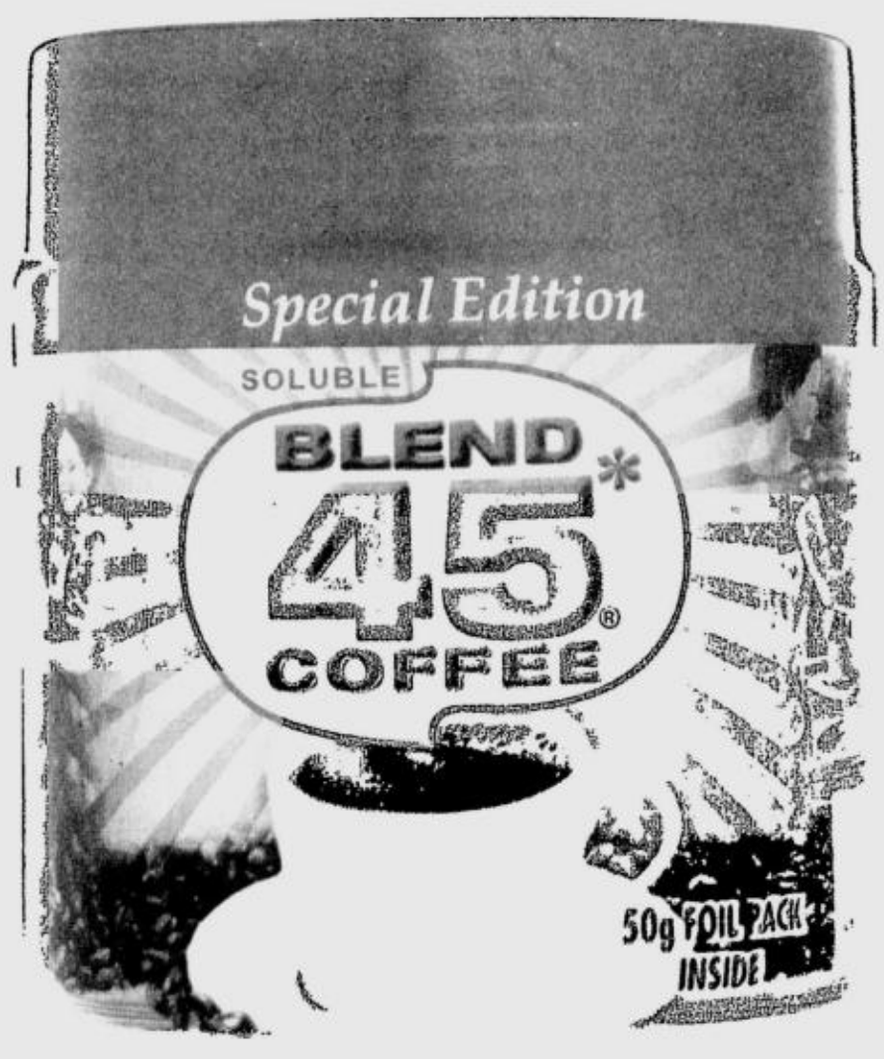

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Pag-Ibig offers loans for spill victims

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO YESTERDAY ASKED the Pag-Ibig Fund to provide emergency loans to victims of the Guimaras oil spill.

De Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), ordered Pag-Ibig president Romero Quimbo to immediately send personnel to process the loan applications of the victims.

Quimbo said there were about 1,000 victims who would qualify for the loans: He said he would send his men to Guimaras next week to start the processing of loan applications.

Speaking on his weekly radio program, De Castro appealed for donations of human hair and chicken feathers to be used to clean up the oil spill.

He said that David's Salon had set up collection boxes for hair in its branches for shipment to Guimaras Island. *Cynthia D. Balana*

EXTRATERRESTRIAL? That's what a worker hired by Sunshine Maritime Corp., owner of the tanker that spilled hundreds of thousand of liters of bunker oil in the Guimaras Strait, looks like as he loads a big bale of rice straw onto an outrigger in La Paz, Nueva Valencia. The straw will help absorb the oil spilled by the sunken tanker. LYN RILLON

Fishermen no more

By TJ Burgonio

GUIMARAS—THEY HAVE LOST the sea, at least for now, and they no longer look like fishermen.

These days, you'll find a cluster of them on the shore, wearing protective masks, rubber gloves and boots, shoveling oil-tainted sand into sacks and toiling all day.

Their women help out by raking oily mangrove leaves to the shore.

The fisherfolk of Purok Bangus in Nueva Valencia town have stopped paddling out to sea to look for catch. Desperate to earn money, many of them spend their days cleaning the shores of the oil slick, which has threatened to wipe out their main source of livelihood: fishing.

The slick comes from the tanker MT Solar I, which sank off Guimaras Island on Aug. 11.

Measly sum

For the "dirty job," Petron Corp., which had chartered the tanker, pays them at least P200 each day—a paltry sum compared to their earnings from their catch.

But they're getting by.

"Some do not find this job appealing, but I do. This is better than having no job at all," said Jun Magbanua, 31, a fisherman who moonlights as a jeepney driver in this mangrove-lined, quiet coastal town.

Many are thankful

Magbanua looked weary from hours of grappling with the slick.

Most sounded thankful they had a job, even if it meant cleaning up someone else's mess.

"I am thankful we have a job and are getting paid by Petron," said fisherman Ismael Ganbalar, 51, a father of five. "At least, we have ready cash to buy school materials for our children."

Nueva Valencia, together with Sibunag and San Lorenzo towns, was among the areas hardest hit by the spill.

No boss in the sea

The fisherfolk long for the day when the oil spill would be cleaned up and they could set out to sea again in their bancas.

"It's a different thing if we get to fish ourselves. We earn P500 to P1,000 from our [fishing], and we can take a rest in between. In fishing, we don't have any boss," Magbanua said.

MESSED UP. President Macapagal-Arroyo inspects the beach at La Paz, Nueva Valencia, on Guimaras Island to assess the extent of the damage caused by what she called an "eco-mess." LYN RILLON

Fast action vs spill urged

From page A1

solution has yet to be made," said Yap who accompanied the President to a meeting of the National Disaster Coordinating Council at Nueva Valencia.

Tanker might sink deeper

Yap said Ms Arroyo had ordered all government agencies concerned to draw up a comprehensive impact assessment report within two weeks to show estimates on the extent of the damage caused by the oil spill on marine and human life in the area.

Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes told the INQUIRER no specific timetable had been set for the salvaging of the remaining oil in the Solar I considering that the authorities had yet to determine its specific location and position when it sank off the southern coast of Guimaras Island.

Reyes said the government needed to act fast considering that the tanker was feared to be sinking deeper, which would make salvaging operations more difficult.

Yap said Petron Corp. had advised the NDCC that the Japanese salvage ship it hired would arrive tomorrow.

3 to 5 years

"Petron is footing all the bills which it will charge to its insurance. Petron chair Nic Alcantara has also committed the company to stay in Guimaras for three to five years to implement and monitor the cleanup and rehabilitation efforts," Yap said.

Ms Arroyo said investigators should find out who was culpable.

"There will be a full investigation of this entire matter to determine what happened, who is responsible and what steps we need to take to make sure that this type of accident does not happen again," she said.

She also ordered a "meticulous and rapid assessment" of the situation by the Department of Health.

Task Force Sunrise

The DOH has been ordered to set up mobile hospitals and get ready with its evacuation procedures.

Yap said the government's effort in the Guimaras oil spill—dubbed Task Force Sunrise—had expanded from cleanup to economic relief.

He said the President also asked Petron to raise the allowance of volunteers working to clean up the slick from P200 to P300 a day. Ms Arroyo distributed livelihood packages to residents to make up for their fishing losses—102 packets of chicken (a packet includes one rooster and 11 hens), 102 packets of piglets (each contains one boar and 3 sows), 3,700 packets of vegetables and 10 28-foot motorized bancas, all meant to make up for the loss of income from fishing.

"We're slowly shifting from cash for relief to cash for work programs," Yap said.

Fish safe

Yap also stressed that the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources had declared that, except for bottom-feeders such as shellfish and crabs, the fish caught off Western Visayas waters were safe to eat because they are able to swim away from the oil spill.

Yap said Ms Arroyo herself would lead the way in bringing back tourists turned away by the oil spill. He said the President would spend one night in one of Guimaras Island's resorts to show that the oil spill was largely concentrated in the island's southern portion.

The NDCC reported that private companies had heeded Ms Arroyo's call for cooperation and they included San Miguel Corp. (which has committed to provide 700 tons of tapioca shells for the absorption of oil) and Royal Cargo.

Masbate untouched

Yap denied reports that the oil spill had spread to the coast of Masbate.

He said the government had ordered a simulation study of Western Visayas waters to determine the direction of the oil spill based on the tide and the wind while deploying intervention boats off the coast of Negros Occidental to ward off the slick.

Yap said that his visit to the hard-hit towns of Guimaras Island showed that the oil spill could be contained with a concerted effort by all sectors.

"I came here expecting to see gobs of oil everywhere but after several days of cleanup work, there has been a dramatic improvement in the water," he said.

Satellite spots new oil slick . . .

From page A1

sheen and not an actual oil slick. It's not a threat," the Petron statement said.

"Boats have been sent to the mouth of Guimaras Strait to ensure that the oil is contained. We'll have more satellite photos tomorrow," it added.

The satellite image was taken on Aug. 24. At that time, the oil slick measured 50 km in length and 16 sq km in area.

"Spaceborne radar imagery suggests that the slick is moving eastward toward southern Masbate, western Biliran and northern Leyte," WWF-Philippines said in a statement.

Habitat destruction

Tan said the threat of habitat degradation was particularly high in the Visayan Sea. "WWF calls for all concerned agencies to contain the slick before it reaches the coastal communities of Masbate, Biliran and Leyte."

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration has said that the atmospheric conditions and ocean currents prevailing at this time of the year move from southwest to northeast.

The Visayan Sea, Masbate, Biliran and Leyte are northeast in general direction from the site of the Guimaras oil spill and the estimated position of the sunken oil tanker.

The Visayan Sea is a deep basin rich in nutrients and plankton, said WWF-Philippines.

Oil spill persists

"It possesses a diverse assemblage of sharks and rays, giant clams and other mollusks, and economically valuable blue crabs," the group said.

"Green and Hawksbill turtles have been reported to feed in the area. The sea is also a feeding and migration area for small pelagic fishes such as mackerel, sardines, anchovies as well as small tuna. Shallow areas have mangrove, seagrass, seaweed, hard and soft bottom habitats," it added.

Various agencies have yet to find out the exact location of the sunken vessel although Petron has already been quoted as saying it plans to suck out the estimated 1.7 to 1.8 million liters of oil still in the sunken oil tanker.

The Philippine Coast Guard said the Solar I was still spewing 200 to 250 liters of bunker fuel an hour as of yesterday and it still had no definite solution to the problem of removing the rest of the fuel trapped in the tanker.

Luis Tuason, PCG commander for Western Visayas, said he did not know the condition of the sunken bunker fuel tanks and that the possibility of their exploding still existed.

Warding off the threat

He said two Coast Guard ships were at the site spraying dispersants to prevent the fuel from reaching land and that, as of yesterday, there had been no oil sheen seen between the islands of Negros and Panay because they were dispersing the fuel at its source.

He said Petron supplies the Coast Guard with dispersants daily but it would be better if the supplies were stocked nearby so that they would be available at all times.

Local officials in other areas have devised their own means to ward off the threat from the oil spill.

Mayors in coastal towns of Iloilo have installed booms made of rice straw, old fishing nets, coconut husks, used clothing and other absorbent materials a mile off the shore to ambush the enemy—the floating blobs of bunker fuel.

Iloilo fishers have also launched a flotilla of boats to trap the oil offshore by scooping it up before it reaches land.

Residents along the coasts, on sighting an oil sheen, have been told to immediately send a message specifying the coordinates or estimated distance of the sheen from the shoreline and its estimated volume, speed and direction.

So far, the plan seems to be working well as data flows regularly to Jerry Bionat, the head of the provincial disaster coordinating council.

The information gathered from the field is fed into a computer-aided model on water circulation and currents that Dr. Rex Baleña, an oceanographer at the University of the Philippines in the Visayas, has made to predict the next area of the oil blitz.

As of Aug. 26, there were four towns in northern Iloilo that had been reached by the oil spill and had declared a state of calamity. These were Ajuy, Concepcion, Dumangas and Barotac Nuevo.

Legislators said two major marine disasters in just eight months had highlighted the need for stricter marine pollution laws.

Bukidnon Rep. Nereus Acosta said laws dealing with prevention of oil spills, the liability of the spillers and the rehabilitation of affected areas should be strengthened.

Around 300,000 liters of bunker fuel spilled off Semirara Island in Antique province last December when a power barge of the National Power Corp. ran aground in bad weather.

Sen. Pia Cayetano said the Senate would expedite the passage of a bill creating an oil liability fund which could be used during oil spills.

Coastal towns south of Iloilo were also placed on the threatened list. These are Miagao, Guimbal, Tigbauan and Oton. *With reports from Carla P. Gomez, Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Ma. Diosa Labiste, Inquirer Visayas and Abigail L. Ho, in Manila*

Lebanese employers blocking OFWs' exit, says Noli

By Cynthia D. Balana

LEBANESE EMPLOYERS ARE striking back at fleeing Filipino workers by asking immigration officials on the Lebanon-Syria border to stop those without valid exit visas and travel documents, Vice President Noli de Castro said yesterday.

De Castro, presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers and head of Task Force Lebanon, said that some Lebanese employers had fought off attempts by the Philippine embassy in Beirut to pick up their Filipino domestic helpers who wanted to be repatriated.

He said that Lebanese immigration officials at the border were under tremendous pressure from employers who believed they had been shortchanged by the untimely departure of their Filipino maids and the sudden termination of their contracts.

"Of course, we can't blame those employers because they really paid for the services of their workers. But there are many abusive ones who have not been paying our OFWs," he said.

De Castro said the government would run after those abusive employers by hiring a Lebanese lawyer to prosecute them.

Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos acknowledged that 50 percent of the OFWs repatriated to Manila were undocumented.

He said those who took part in the repatriation program stayed in Lebanon even after their contracts had expired.

He said the government could not blame Lebanese immigration officials for being strict on OFWs because many of them would entered Lebanon as tourists.

De Castro said the security situation in Lebanon had greatly improved as a result of the United Nations-sponsored ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah.

Conejos denied than an OFW died during the Aug. 16 evacuation as narrated by one of the evacuees who arrived last week. He said the OFW, who had been physically abused by her employer, had gone home to Quezon province after recuperating at a Lebanese hospital.

Conejos admitted that the number of evacuees in Lebanon had gone down considerably as the OFWs now seem reluctant to return home with the ceasefire.

The latest batch of 205 OFWs aboard a flight chartered by the International Organization for Migration arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport at around 2 p.m. yesterday. Another IOM-funded batch of 95 evacuees on a commercial flight was expected to land at 11:30 p.m. last night.

This would bring to 6,073 the total number of OFWs repatriated by Sunday morning.

Conejos said at least 70 more evacuees are expected to arrive next Tuesday.

According to Conejos, the government will continue with the evacuation of Filipinos from Lebanon until there is a substantial fully-organized deployment of UN peacekeeping forces in the war-torn country.

Two weeks into the UN-backed truce, Conejos said the situation in Lebanon remained volatile.

"While the situation has improved, the decision was to continue the last time we met on Tuesday," he told the INQUIRER.

A major factor behind the decision was that the troop size, country contributions and rules of engagement pertaining to the UN peacekeeping force were not yet agreed upon at the time, Conejos said.

With a report from Volt Contreras

US publisher sending call center jobs to RP

NEW YORK—PUBlisher and broadcaster Tribune Co. on Friday said it will cut 250 call center jobs at 10 of its daily newspapers and outsource those functions to a US company with operations in the Philippines.

The cuts involve 120 full-time jobs and 130 part-time jobs and would affect papers such as the Chicago Tribune, Newsday on New York's Long Island and The Baltimore Sun.

The cuts amount to about 1 percent of Tribune's publishing operations and will take place through the fall of 2006 and into early 2007, spokesperson Jeff Reiter said.

Tribune, like other newspaper publishers, is trying to shave its expenses as newsprint and production costs rise, readers go elsewhere to get their news and advertisers pull back on spending or move it to other media.

APAC Customer Services, based in Deerfield, Illinois, will take over the call center operations. Calls for Tribune will go to APAC's operations in the Philippines.

An employee memo at the Orlando Sentinel that was posted on the Romenesko journalism Web log said that employees could apply for other open positions in the company, and that those who did not get a job would receive a severance package.

Reiter confirmed that the memo, signed by Sentinel publisher Kathy Waltz, was authentic.

"The intensely competitive media environment we find ourselves in and the changes happening within our industry make it even more important that we continue to look for better ways to meet the needs of our readers and advertisers," Waltz wrote in the memo.

Several companies, including The New York Times Co. and Belo Corp. have announced job cuts and buyout offers.

Other companies are trying to save in ways similar to Tribune. No. 2 US newspaper publisher McClatchy Co. last week said it would cut an unspecified number of customer service call center jobs at its Bee newspapers in California. *Reuters*

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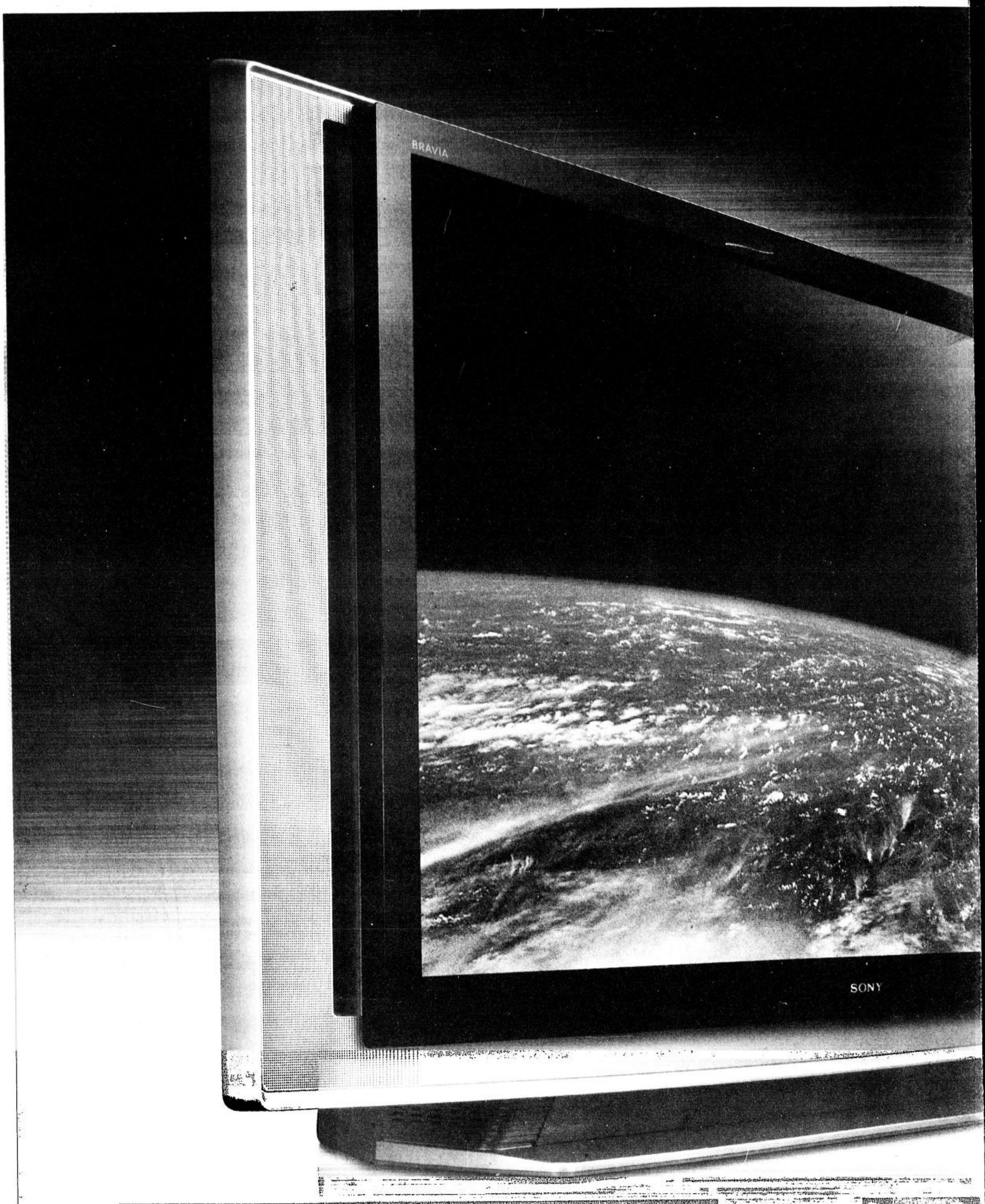

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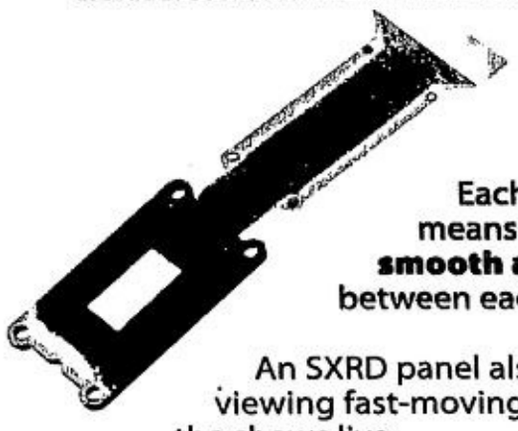

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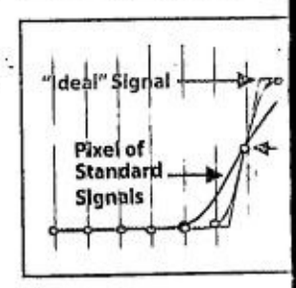

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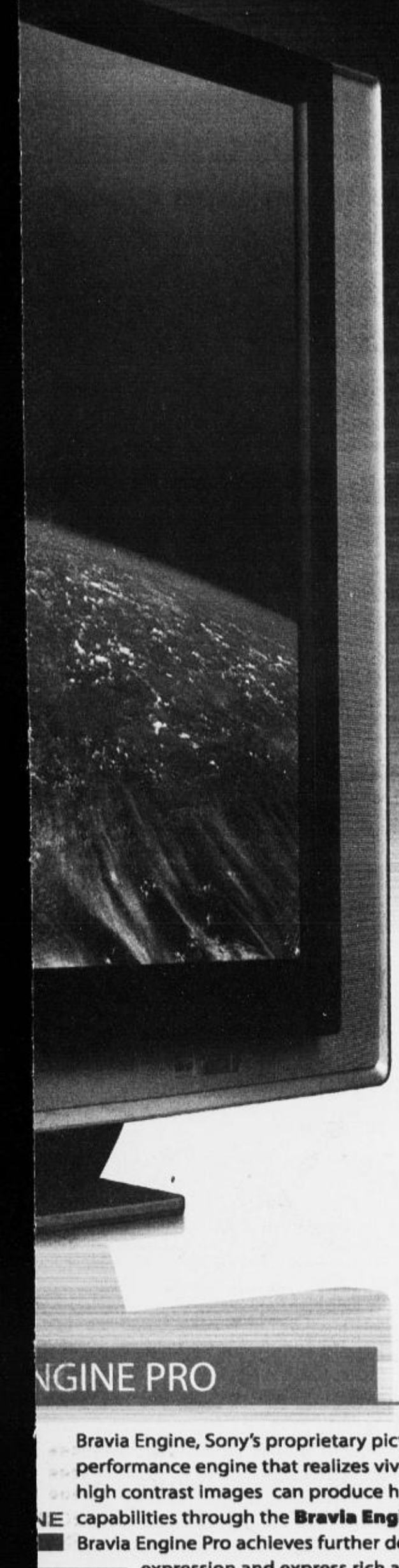

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OPINION

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Politics of 'balut'

EDITORIAL

AT ONE POINT IN THE SEEMINGLY INTERminable plenary session in the House of Representatives last week, when the sometimes raucous and often tense vote on the second impeachment complaint was finally held, minority Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano pulled off what could generously be described as a successful political stunt.

Despite what he suggested were the insulting attitude and the lack of responsiveness on the part of the administration congressmen defending the committee report on the impeachment complaint, Cayetano said he held no grudges, and in fact had a peace offering for the President's defenders: three "*balut*" eggs. Then, like a practiced comic, and to the gallery's great amusement, Cayetano pulled the eggs out from his coat.

Without missing a beat, administration stalwart Rep. Luis Villafuerte replied: "I accept these three *balut* eggs. I hope they're not rotten." The crowd keeping watch on the proceedings roared in laughter.

We do not know what the voluble spokesman of the minority's impeachment campaign was up to; perhaps he was simply advertising his local roots, since he hails from the legislative district comprised of the *balut*-making municipalities of Taguig and Pateros.

Perhaps he was merely trying to defuse the tension in the session hall, which at that particular time, at around midnight of Thursday, was rather intense. Or perhaps he was only prepared to take political advantage of the televised moment, with a maneuver designed to be talked about for some time to come. (An exasperated Rep. Edcel Lagman, the main sponsor of the committee report, once tried to cut off Cayetano's many attempts to read the opposition's evidence of presidential wrongdoing into the records, by adverting to Cayetano's much-rumored-about senatorial ambitions. "You show this supposed evidence on TV but there's nothing about it in the complaint. Maybe the senator has already gotten enough mileage from this," Lagman said.)

We don't think the son of a late senator and the brother of a sitting member of the Senate is entirely innocent of these rumors, but that is neither here nor there.

What is at issue (and we say this without tongue in cheek) is Cayetano's choice of peace offering. We think it is actually more revealing, of the perilous state of our representative democracy, than even the most suspicious-minded members of the House majority may have thought.

Balut, of course, is a fertilized duck egg; to eat this specialty is to consume a duck embryo.

Like the political pronouncements of noble intentions and protestations of popular will that accompanied the majority vote, *balut* must be taken with more than a pinch of salt.

Like the administration coalition's rush to judgment on the second impeachment complaint, *balut* requires a speeded-up schedule of incubation and preparation. The timetable is very nearly all; like the schedule the majority gave itself, *balut*-making is a matter of mere days.

Not least, the majority politics behind the decision to dismiss the second complaint, like *balut* itself, is premised on the killing of the young. In the Philippines, impeachment as a mode of or an expression of the constitutional requirement of public accountability is only in its embryonic stages. While elections remain the principal way to hold political officials accountable—famously expressed as the regular opportunity to "throw the rascals out"—a mature democracy must have other, more regular means to turn accountability into reality.

Impeachment, in constitutional law, is a "terrible sword"—cumbersome, perhaps, in fact rusting in its scabbard, fraught with risk. But it was designed precisely to pin the highest officials of the land to the highest standards. It takes some work, because it is unwieldy. But if its use is required, then it must be drawn, not merely shaken in its scabbard.

It could not have been the intention of the Constitution's framers that politics alone—expressed cynically in the formula that voting is only a numbers game—decide impeachment matters. The legal language the Constitution uses in providing for impeachment is already proof that it cannot be merely political. But instead of helping the democratic project grow in maturity, by dealing squarely with impeachment on the issues rather than by the numbers, the administration coalition has stunted its growth. It has feasted on the young.

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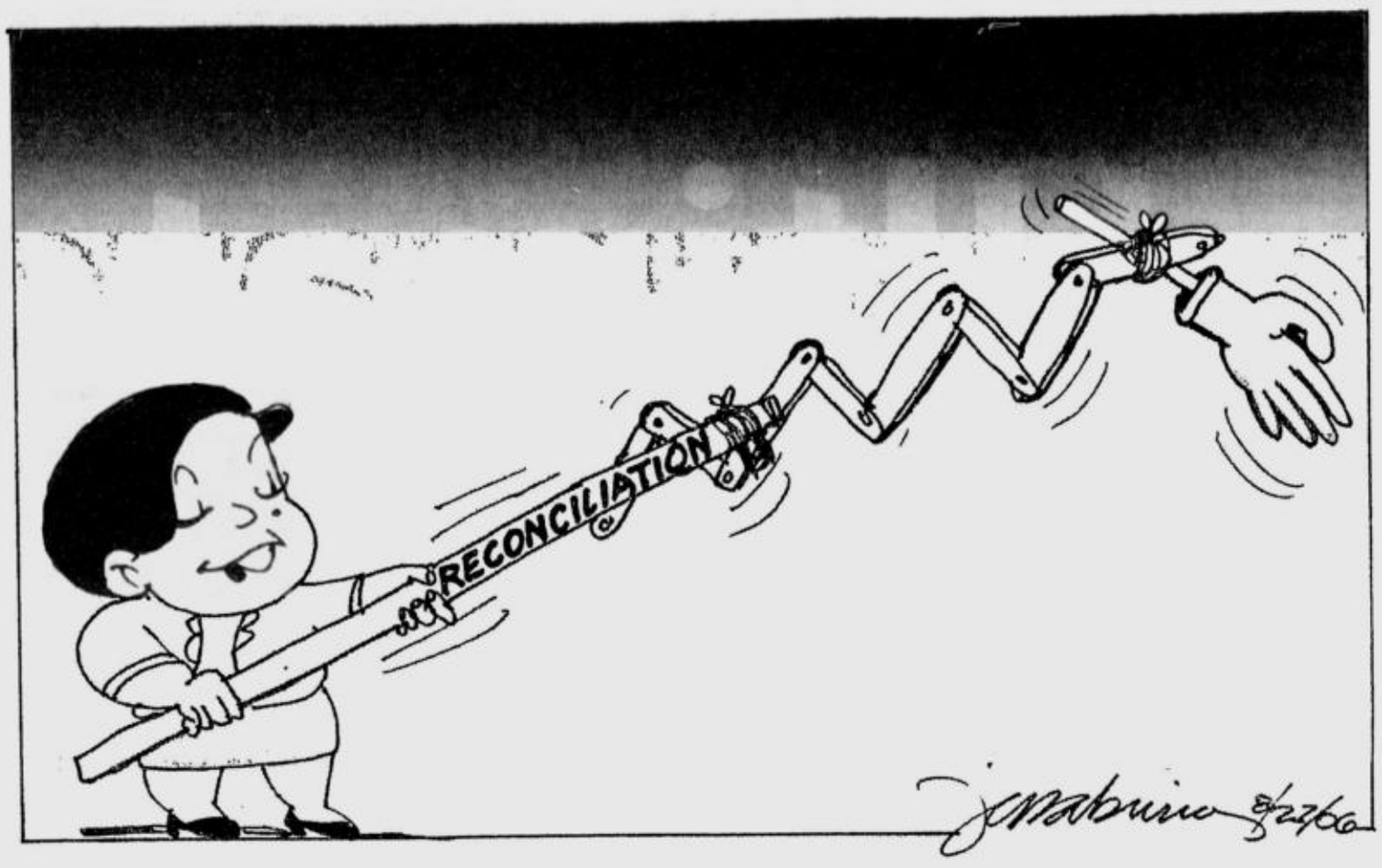

A practical alternative

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

DURING THE 2004 PRESIDENTIAL CAMpaign, I spoke and wrote against Fernando Poe Jr. on the ground that as a high school drop-out who carefully evaded scheduled debates with the other candidates, he was hardly qualified to serve in the position he was presumptuously seeking as President of the Philippines.

This did not mean I was campaigning for President Macapagal Arroyo with her impressive educational qualifications. The fact is that I did not trust her either because she seemed to me too pretentious with her cheap politicking and opportunistic, too for accepting membership and perquisites in President Estrada's Cabinet although she was then the head of the opposition.

My candidate was Raul Roco, a respected lawyer who had earlier proved his leadership as a legislator, especially in the Senate, and his administrative abilities as education secretary. I knew his days were already numbered but I cast a conscience vote for him just the same as a salute to a worthy public servant and to set an example to the mostly indiscriminate electorate.

Looking back, I feel it would have been more practical to vote for FPJ, who was the man to beat GMA with his vast appeal to the masses despite, or because of, his lack of academic endowments. He identified with them, or they with him, which rapport could have generated enough political energy to legitimately catapult him to Malacañang. His election would have been a tremendous risk to the nation, but he was after all the people's honest choice.

Subsequent events, however, have proved that my vote, like those of other FPJ supporters, would have been wasted because of the widespread reports of election irregularities that made President Arroyo win by more than a million votes. FPJ rushed to Mindanao to see what had happened to his formidable bailiwicks but was shown the suspicious election returns that must have embittered his disappointment and hastened his demise.

GMA's supposed victory became even more suspicious with the disclosure of the Garci tapes and the massive cheating committed in Mindanao under the direction allegedly of Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano of the Comelec. He conveniently disappeared while the anomaly was being investigated by Congress and later, after having absconded to parts unknown, suddenly surfaced to cleverly elude all insinuations against him with the help of the Arroyo centurions.

The abrupt termination of the legislative inquiry absolved President Arroyo of any involvement in the anomalies uncovered by the Garcia tapes. Last Thursday, her cohorts in the lower House scornfully dismissed her connection with the scandal as an already dead issue that could no longer be considered a ground for her impeachment.

President Arroyo's obdurate opposition to the exhumation and autopsy of the Garci tapes that the opposition claims were buried alive is an irrefutable indication of her guilty conscience. The popular consensus is that, as obligated by the Constitution to see to it that "the laws are faithfully executed," she should instruct her obedient subordinates to cooperate in the full investigation of the exposé for the ascertainment of the guilty parties who manipulated the 2004 elections.

Her refusal to perform her constitutional duty is, of course, understandable albeit definitely not justifiable. An impartial and fearless inquiry into the mysteries of the Garci tapes may reveal the principal culprit as no less than President Arroyo herself. She is opposed to this revelation because it is crucially dangerous to her political survival and her already tarnished name in history.

Even if such investigation were resumed and eventually to conclude that there were indeed irregularities committed in the last presidential election, it is doubtful if such anomalies can be rectified at this late hour. The logical person to protest would be Susan Roces, FPJ's widow, but she will again be dismissed by the Supreme Court as not a proper party.

Given this legal obstacle, I would suggest a practical alternative. My suggestion—and hope—is that she run for Congress in the 2007 elections and bring her legitimate protest to the people as the ultimate judge on the conduct of the 2004 elections. She would incontestably be a proper party, and entitled to the right to be heard on her long muted complaint, before the sovereign Filipino people as the Court of Last Resort.

The articulate Susan would make an effective leader, and a beautiful symbol as well, of the new opposition to Ms Arroyo's disputable and disreputable reign. It is a civic role Ms Roces should dutifully perform in remembrance and vindication of her beloved husband.

N.B. In his non-answer to me last Monday, Mr. Quezon concluded thus: "Further, affiant sayeth naught." Webster says "naught" means "nothing." So be it.

To whom shall we go?

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A BARBER WHO gave a free haircut to a German. The next day, he received a basket of frankfurters outside his door. After giving a Japanese also a free haircut, the barber found a bottle of "sake" outside his door. He gave a Filipino a free haircut and, the next day, the barber found standing outside his door 10 more Filipinos with text messages about a free haircut.

* * *

Word does get around fast. In today's Gospel (Mt. 23, 13-22), word spread around that Jesus, the wonder healer and miracle worker, was talking about His flesh as food and His blood as drink. Shortly thereafter, He started losing followers. Even disciples—many of them—started to say that His pronouncements were hard to follow and accept. In fact, a number of them were shocked. And they stopped accompanying Him. How sad that people who have principles and hold on to the truth are often abandoned and set aside in this world of shallow commitments and fragile relationships. How sad that we abandon, reject and even persecute prophets in our midst because they make us "uncomfortable," and instead we follow the clowns who entertain us and make us forget.

* * *

"Follow the leader." All right. But what kind of a leader? Never mind what kind of a leader, as long as he or she can promise the moon and the stars? As long as this leader can provide for my personal needs, and one who does not disturb my comfort zones? The Lord reminds us today that the true leader is one who speaks the truth, in season and out of season, without thought of popularity or rejection. If false leaders thrive and abound, it is because there are followers who are not after principles, but only look for what is convenient, easy and beneficial.

* * *

Leadership, like respect, is earned. Lions tell us that. Elephants tell us that. Zebras tell us that. In the world of nature, there is no way a false leader can rise. But not so in the world of man, where leadership can be bought, manipulated, forced and even imposed. Surely we have more sense and wisdom than animals, but we often end up more stupid and more timid than them. "To whom shall we go?" Let us go to him/her whom we really believe in, and of whose leadership we are really convinced.

* * *

There are leaders and there are leaders. We have leaders who look good and talk good. But in the end, we look for leaders who are really sincere and have the public good in their minds. Sooner or later, we inevitably find out their true colors. "To whom shall we go?" Let us go to leaders who truly lead us, not bleed us; leaders who guide us, not to those who lie to us; leaders who empower us, not enslave us; leaders who challenge us, and not just please or entertain us.

* * *

Take a good look at the word "God." Reverse the letters and you have the word "dog." In life, we all have a choice—whether to go to God or to the dogs. It would be good for all of us to ask ourselves today: Where am I going?

* * *

Aug. 28 is the feast of St. Augustine. He took the long, circuitous way to go back to God. In the end, he found himself embraced by the "beauty so ancient, yet so true." His restlessness finally ended when he found his God. More rightly, when God found him.

* * *

Soon it will be September, and Christmas will not be far behind. Where is our country going? Here's praying that Christmas will find us in a better situation than the one we are in now. Yes, we must continue to hope and work for a fresh start and a new beginning, on our way back to God as a people and as a nation.

* * *

All roads lead to the grave. There is no escaping death, and yet some people live as if their lives would never end. As it is, some people hold on to worldly power, and somehow forget that no power on earth can prevent them from facing death and decay. Take note: corruption leads to decay. In fact, some people are already decaying even now because of their involvement in corruption.

* * *

It is not easy to follow Christ. In fact, one must be some kind of a fool to follow Him. Why be good in a world that rewards the bad? Why sacrifice? Why forgo money, riches, pleasures and power? Why? Because He offers something meaningful and substantial to us. He offers to us a meaningful earthly life and a joyful eternal life.

* * *

Inviting men and women with generous hearts to respond to God's call as a priest, or a brother or a sister. There is a big lack of priests and religious these days. If you feel you have a calling, please talk to your parish priest or call us at Christ the King Seminary (726-5002). It is a rewarding and meaningful life. God is calling. Are you listening?

* * *

God is love, and he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God, and God in him. Be inspired by daily Bible verses, text ON<space>BIBLE and send to 2948 for Globe/Sun or 3940 for Smart. God bless you. Mama Mary loves you!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord remind me that from You I came, to You I am going. Amen.

Mission impossible

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST THURSDAY, THE INQUIRER HEADLINE read: "NPA bags 29 rifles in Bukidnon raid." The raid by communist insurgents on a military outpost outside Valencia City in Bukidnon was described as "one of the most successful attacks on a military target this year." The Army spokesman, Maj. Ernesto Torres, called it "a big debacle" while the NDF (National Democratic Front) spokesperson, Cesar Renerio, described the enemy as "too complacent" thus resulting in its being taken by "complete surprise."

The report said 29 firearms—15 M-14s, 10 Garands and four M-16 rifles—were taken. But if one goes through the whole story, the total haul for the week for the NPA—including those taken from other locations—comes up to 40 assorted firearms, a radio equipment among them.

The new AFP spokesman, Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, said that two junior officers had been relieved from their posts as company commanders. Yesterday, Lt. Col. Francisco Simbajon, spokesperson of the 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City reported that no official had been relieved, referring to the battalion commanders in the area.

Last June, in her State of the Nation Address, the President ordered the armed forces to put an end to the insurgency, giving the military a two-year deadline to finish the job.

Some months ago, there was a deadline to clear the nation of *jueteng* with the appointment of an anti-jueteng czar, Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn. Well, if one is to go by news reports, jueteng is back in full swing in many parts of the country.

There was also a deadline of 10 weeks imposed on the Philippine National Police to solve at least 10 of the high-profile killings of activists and journalists. Task Force Usig chief Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr. recently reported substantial compliance with the filing of charges against some suspects. But he himself admitted that there is still a lot of hard work ahead.

The order to the military to end the communist insurgency in two years—I call it "mission impossible"—is probably the most unrealistic, for the simple reason that the use of force will never bring about the desired results. The insurgents believe they are fighting for justice and a better life, and the political killings that have taken place during the last few years—Amnesty International reports 51 political killings in the first six months of the year, as compared to 66 for the whole of 2005—have only strengthened the Left-leaning activists' determination to bring about a change of government.

If the military is to make any dent in the insurgency, it must change its strategy and image. Right now, to many people in the countryside, the face of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan is the face of the armed forces. If this is the result of NPA propaganda, they are doing a heck of a job. In other lands, we are known for our humanitarian contributions, including civic action programs involving non-combatant units. We send doctors, nurses, engineers and police personnel to help in peacekeeping and development missions all over the globe—Haiti, Bosnia, Kosovo, East Timor and now possibly, Lebanon. Why can't we get our military more involved in community-building programs here at home? We don't need divisions and brigades to fight our own people. We need smaller units that can easily engage our people, particularly in the rural areas, in confidence-building activities like the construction of roads, bridges, school houses and first-aid clinics. The name of the game is still winning the hearts and minds of the people.

Obviously, in the Bukidnon fiasco, there was an utter failure of intelligence. How could 50 armed men enter a camp undetected and take away 29 firearms, enough to equip another group of 50 or even a hundred new recruits? We need to court-martial some of our officers in the field for possible dereliction of duty—and I don't mean just the junior officers—for command responsibility goes much higher than company level.

* * *

AFP heroes: Although I mentioned him in one of my columns some months ago, I want to point out that the new AFP public information officer, Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, is one of only 11 holders of the Medal for Valor, the AFP's highest award for gallantry and bravery above and beyond the call of duty. As a young second lieutenant commanding a Cafgu auxiliary company attached to the 21st Infantry Battalion of the 5th Infantry Division in Isabela, Bacarro engaged a heavily-armed group of communist insurgents in a two-day battle (Jan. 26-27, 1991). Without air or artillery fire support, and despite being wounded, he organized a systematic counter-attack on enemy forces, preventing them from overrunning the town of Maconacon. His leadership and courage provided the inspiration for his soldiers to fight and turn back a superior force of insurgents.

If someone in the mold of Lieutenant Bacarro was in charge in Valencia City last week, those firearms would not have been taken and the enemy would have paid a high price for their efforts.

Although he is not a Medal for Valor awardee, I would like to mention Col. Eduardo B. Andres, now the Assistant Adjutant General, AFP. Andres, a native of Magallanes, Sorsogon, was serving as commander of the 27th Infantry Battalion, 6th Infantry Division, when he was ambushed by NPA elements in Tubi, South Cotabato. Before this, he served with the UN Peacekeeping Force in East Timor as CO, Force Service Unit for which he was awarded a commendation for outstanding performance as a professional Army officer by the Thai Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Boonsrang Niumpradit.

A season of storms

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

EVEN AS WE WERE KEEPING VIGIL OVER MY brother Nono at the hospital and later, at his wake, my husband Pie and his younger sister Belle were trying desperately to get in touch with their siblings in the United States. Their sister Esther, whom everyone calls Nene, had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer almost two years ago and the word is that she is doing poorly. But every time they called, they would either fail to get connected or hear an answering machine.

Finally, on the first day of Nono's wake, I suggested we leave the chapel early so we could meet with Belle at home and plan what to do. On the drive home, my husband decided to take another chance and call Nene's cell phone. To his surprise, he was connected with his brother Nonoy, who said he was at Nene's bedside. To our relief, Nene was still alive! We told Nonoy to call us at home in 30 minutes as we were on our way there.

Once we reached home, Belle and her daughter Haidee joined us and when Nonoy called, they gave the phone to Nene. Later, Nonoy would tell us that the second Nene heard Pie's voice, she opened her eyes and smiled, and continued smiling as, one by one, we talked with her, telling her we loved her, not to worry about us here as we were all doing fine, to be at peace, and to keep praying. In reply, she would mumble a soft "yesss," or "thank you."

Nonoy and his wife Yoly told us that they were in a hospice in North Carolina, where Nene had been brought after her last stay in the hospital. Nene's husband Dan and son Danny were at the airport, fetching their eldest sister Dolly and her husband Himer who were flying in to be with Nene.

* * *

BELLE was uneasy about the situation. "We've talked to her and Ate Dolly is coming. It's like she's just waiting to hear from everyone," she said, voice breaking.

"Belle, let's look upon this as a blessing," I urged. "What a blessing it was to be able to talk with her and tell her that we loved her."

But Belle's feelings proved prophetic. Early the next morning, Dolly told us that Nene had passed away. My sister-in-law, Esther David Bruno, was dead at age 60.

When Pie and I went for a visit in March of last year, Nene was still on her feet, the same energetic and self-sufficient woman we knew, though she tired easily and complained of constant stomachache. We planned a grand reunion in the Philippines, with Nene and Dan treating the entire family to a week-long stay in Boracay where they had time-share accommodations. With much optimism, we planned the visit of the US-based Davids for February this year, in time for Belle's birthday.

But some months later, Nene herself called to say that the trip home would probably not materialize. "I've gotten worse," she said, "I don't think I can stand such a long plane trip and I need constant care already." We urged her to take a positive view, to believe that she would get well enough to visit the country, if not in February then at some later date. Or, to hold on and wait for us because Pie and I were planning and saving up for a visit next February.

* * *

SUBSEQUENT events would prove that not all the planning and hoping of puny humans could stop the hand of fate and the will of God.

In a way, we are happy for Nene. A woman who was proudest of her independence and her self-sufficient ways, she balked at her need for constant care that her illness had imposed. She had run her household and her doctor-husband's practice with confidence and efficiency, and she smarted at the need to turn over responsibility for these to other people, even if they were her relatives.

Her only child Danny was her pride and joy, and as Nene's health failed her, Danny left his job in New York and agreed to live nearby to help look after his mother and keep her company. So we are comforted by the thought that in her final days, Nene was in the company of those she loved most, and in the final hours of her life, was able at least to hear reassuring messages from her family back home.

She was able to make only two visits to Manila since she left the country in the 1970s. The first was when she traveled to Manila together with their mother, Mommy Marty, her family and Ate Dolly's family in the early 1980s. The second was when Nene and family visited again a few months later to fetch Mommy Marty, who had wanted to try staying in Manila but decided she preferred life in the United States. We would have other encounters when I, Pie or our family was able to visit, most memorably when they brought me to the famous restaurant of the Culinary Institute of America in a scenic hillside in New York state, and when they brought the entire family to Orlando, Florida some years later, highlighted by repeat visits to Disneyworld.

SO it is that we are weathering this season of storms in our family. We will mark the ninth day of prayers for Nene tomorrow, and with that we shall "officially" bring to a close the period of mourning for both my brother Nono and for Pie's sister Nene.

But we know the full emotional impact of our losses is yet to be felt, that grief will be a constant shadow that may darken some days. We hope for enough faith to see us through, to provide comfort and solace, to lighten our sorrow.

Storms pass, the sky will clear, the sun will shine again. Corny, yes, but guess what, there is wisdom in such bromides because, even as we blunder along, the cycle of life continues.

We ask for your prayers for both Nono and Nene, and thank all those who gave of their time, presence and prayers and sent flowers, food, Mass cards and messages of sympathy to comfort us and ease somewhat our way through this dark season.

Testing culture

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

PROFITING FROM TEST LEAKS IS PROBABLY AS old as testing itself. Advances in the technology of retrieval and duplication of information, coupled with the heightened competitiveness in almost all professions, may have made resort to it easier and more tempting. Even so, we may assume that the methods and principles for preventing it and managing its effects have also been refined over time. What is most amazing about the current nursing board exam fiasco is the thoughtless response that seems to characterize its handling.

On July 17, the Professional Regulation Commission-Board of Nursing (PRC-BON) issued a resolution that nullified the scores in 110 of the 500 test questions in the 2006 nursing board exams. This was its knee-jerk response to the finding that there has been a leak in those areas covered by these questions. Since most of the excluded items pertained to neuro-psychiatric nursing, the resolution assumed either that the areas were not that crucial, or that the level of competence in those areas may be deduced from an examinee's performance in the other areas. It was the easy way out because it did not distinguish between those who profited from the leak and those who did not. It did not lift the stigma from the 2006 takers.

No less inconsiderate is the recommendation of the recently formed Presidential Task Force which seeks the invalidation of the results in the two disputed subjects of the 2006 nursing licensure examination, and the retake of the test in the two areas. Not even the offer that the government will foot the bill for the new round of exams can diminish the anguish of those who took and passed the examination by honest means. Many contingencies shape one's performance in any exam. Anyone who has ever taken a difficult test knows that psychological preparedness on test day itself and luck can spell the difference between passing and failing. That is why I fully sympathize with those who are aggrieved by the blanket nullification of exam results in the areas tainted by the leaks.

Dante Ang, who heads the Malacañang task force as well as the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, rightly worries that the scandal may affect the credibility of Philippine nurses and, perhaps, their marketability abroad. But the solution to this problem cannot just possibly lie in the indiscriminate cancellation of disputed results. It has to begin with measured steps that seek to protect the interests of the legitimate passers while preserving the overall integrity of the exams. What might these be?

First, try to isolate those examinees who most likely made it entirely on their own from those who most probably passed because they were aided by the leak. We may reasonably assume that those whose grades in the tainted subjects do not greatly deviate from their scores in the other subjects very likely passed on their own. I am not an expert, but I am aware that there are simple statistical methods for determining this. A computer program can go through the scores of all the examinees and quickly identify those who register suspicious spikes in their scores in those two contaminated subjects. The names of these examinees can then be compared with the names of those in the list of the review centers where the leaked questions were supposed to have been disseminated. When there is a match, a retake should be strongly considered. The resulting list can be further refined and trimmed down by determining who among the examinees in this list registered the greatest similarity of right and wrong answers in the two disputed subjects. It is they who must be required to retake the whole examination. In this manner, we do not stigmatize and penalize everybody for the sins of a few.

Second, get to the bottom of this leak. A couple of brave examinees have already come forward to volunteer what they know. Investigators must pick up the trail from there and follow it to where it leads. Let us not forget that a terrible crime has been committed here, as a result of which a great injustice hangs over the head of those who legitimately passed the exams. Left hanging, this issue will only aggravate the moral indifference that already afflicts our society.

Third, and finally, review the whole system of professional eligibility examinations, with particular attention to its present vulnerabilities. Such a study could take a look into the following: (1) the wisdom of appointing examiners who are also lecturers at review centers; (2) the proliferation of independent review centers that are not subject to any form of regulation by relevant authorities; (3) the knowledgeability of the examiners—not just in the subjects assigned to them but also in the whole science of preparing test questions; (4) the adequacy of existing test banks—in particular, the extent to which these are regularly revisited, evaluated and replenished.

In pursuing the needed reforms, we should not be blind to the subtle dangers posed by excessive fixation on tests. When the knowledge that schools impart to their students becomes primarily geared to passing licensure exams, they often forget to teach what is essential to the thoughtful practice of a profession. But, perhaps, there is an even more basic lesson here. When entrepreneurs build a whole profitable industry around one profession, like nursing, the distortion it brings not only exacerbates the defects of our educational system, it tests the integrity of our whole culture.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

The waiting dark

IN BARANGAY STA. CLARA, CUYAPO, NUEVA ECIJA, JOSIE Javier sat in front of her television at half-past eight on a Sunday night. Her husband Armando lay asleep on a bench by the window. That night, the comfortable quiet exploded with the relentless shots of an M-16 fired by a gunman a foot away from the window. Josie escaped with a gash on her arm. Armando, a peasant leader of Anak Pawis, still slept on his bench in a pool of his own blood.

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

In Barangay Lennec, Guimba, Nueva Ecija, the blindfolded body of Pricilla Esteban was found under a bridge, shot, badly bruised, bound at wrist and ankle and left with a crushed skull. The 55-year-old woman was the widowed mother of seven children. She was an active leader of the local Bayan Muna chapter.

In Barangay Parista, a tiny village in San Jose, Nueva Ecija, midwife Teresita Abellera was washing dishes when three armed men forced their way into her home and accused her of being an NPA member. She was bound from behind, with a rifle butt rammed at her cheek and stomach. They strangled her year-old granddaughter, beat up her husband and thrashed her 25-year-old son Rodel, who the armed men claimed was also NPA. They thrashed him until he begged, and then they thrashed him until he was unconscious. Mother and son were loaded into a waiting vehicle.

I do not know any of this when I wake up in the dark in the back seat of an INQUIRER pickup, leg cramping from being curled up for hours. My photographer Jim sits shotgun, and Al, the driver, is hunched against the wheel. All I know is that we were told to go after a story in Nueva Ecija, where a militant leader had gotten shot. My contact confirms it: July Vasquez, KMP member, killed the night before in Culong, Guimba.

Guimba is beyond the border of Tarlac, right inside Nueva Ecija, the province the military calls NPA country. It is the place where a farmer had been electrocuted for not having a *cedula*. According to the 2000 census, Guimba has a population of 87,295 people in 19,207 households. At 7:56 on a Thursday night, its streets are deserted.

Every few minutes, Jim gets down from the pickup to knock on doors and ask for directions. He calls out from front stoops, or leans over rickety wooden fences. We see the blue glow of television screens and heads peering around curtains, but doors remain shut. Jim manages to cobble together directions from the few people he catches on the street. Al drives on. A set of headlights punches through the blackness ahead—an open jeep, driving slowly toward us, packed with soldiers carrying Armalite rifles.

We are quiet inside the pickup.

Just past a *sari-sari* store, a man walks out of a gate. Go straight, he tells us. Turn right after the waiting shed. He doesn't tell us that turning right means turning into a skinny dirt path that cuts in the middle of cogon higher than our pickup. The path through the fields is muddy, pocked with holes filled with water from the last rain. I look over my shoulder, once, twice, but there is nothing but grass and dark and dread.

Jim and Al are calm, but it is the forced cold calmness of experience. Turn here, one of them says. All right, says the other. There is no way to turn back, and no way to know if we're taking the right turns. I cannot see beyond a foot out the window. The road gets softer, and we move slower. I try to pray, but I can't remember the words. Al grits his teeth and wrestles the car out of the muck.

We find the Vasquez home in the middle of sprawling fields, brightly lit while all the other homes are dark. Outside, a little more than a dozen people stand on the packed earth or sit on wooden benches. Inside, under the garish glare of funeral lamps that are missing a few bulbs, is July Vasquez in a white coffin.

There are old wooden beams supporting the tin ceiling, and more benches on the cement floor. A toddler sleeps in a corner. July's widow gets to her feet: Dolores Vasquez, 46 years old, left with five children, the youngest 11. According to her, July had gone to a friend's nearby wake the night before. At 7:30 p.m., a man wearing shorts and carrying an Armalite and a .45 cal. pistol had come barreling in. "*Dapa kayong lahat*!" Shots were fired, a dozen in all. Eleven of the bullets were found inside July Vasquez's bloodied body. July's killer was not hooded, but nobody will describe him. It was the same night the military set up a detachment near the Vasquez home.

Dolores says she knows nothing. Asked whether her husband was a human rights advocate, she says she did not notice. Asked about why her husband was killed, she says she has no idea. Asked about her suspicions, she says she has none.

The people at the wake are all family. No one else in Culong is willing to risk paying respects. The houses all around the Vasquez residence had been abandoned that same day. July's sister puts a hand on my arm. "*Bubuweltahan kami kung magsalita kami*."

Dolores' calm suddenly breaks, and she interrupts, her voice shrill. "*Wala tayong alam*!" She appeals to me. "*Wala kaming alam*."

The murdered man was a barangay officer. His wife says that he was a responsible man, generous to a fault. Did he help farmers, I ask. The sister jumps in and asks what I mean by "help." If I meant he helped the NPA, no, never, July was a good man. He made sure they had a road. She points proudly at the lights—it was July who pushed for electricity to reach their area in 2004. Their parents, she says, had died without ever tasting the comfort of road or light.

A small unframed snapshot of July is propped over the coffin—the picture of a smiling man with sunburned skin. On the wall is a certificate of attendance in a local seminar-workshop: "Neighborhood Partnership for Anti-Insurgency/Criminality/Terrorism, 2003."

We walk back to the pickup and drive off, past three uniformed soldiers who stand by the highway, rifles by their sides. It is 9:30 on a Thursday night.

July Vasquez was to turn 50 on Sept. 7, 2006. Now he is just a name, another line in a list that gets longer by the day.

THEY SAID

Inherited fruits

"Before me, my grandfather and my father also tilled the piece of land I'm currently farming. Now I'm accused of robbing the fruits of labor of my whole clan."

—Henaro Saul, one of the 100 farmers belonging to the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Bondoc Peninsula who surrendered to the police to face 187 criminal charges filed against them by landowners

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TALK of the TOWN

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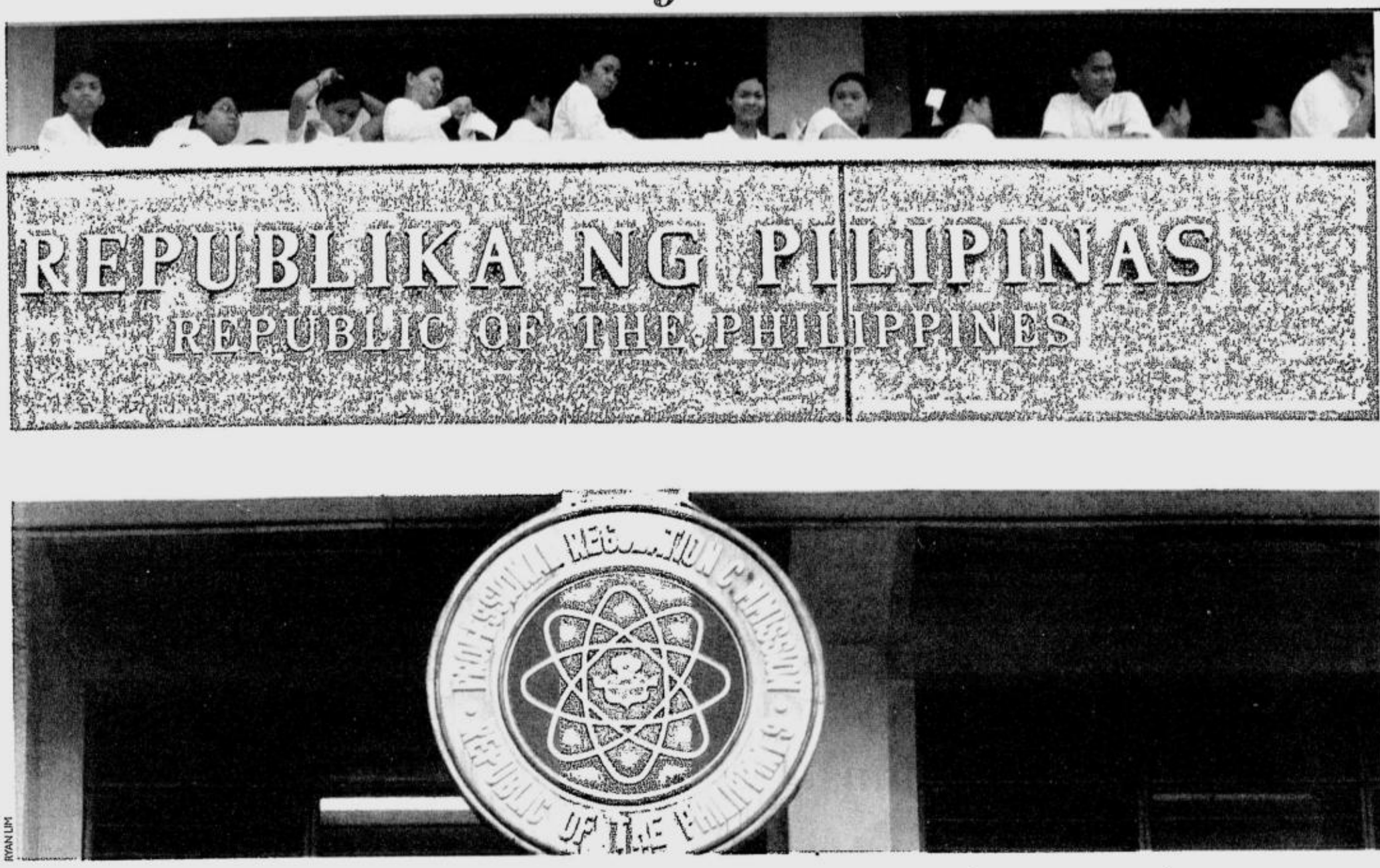
jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.



RYAN LIM

We are not entertaining as yet anyone from 2006 because of the legalities and because we do not condone what happened. We want the truth to come out

Job prospects of nursing board 'passers'

HOSPITALS HERE AND ABROAD ARE RELUCTANT TO HIRE nursing graduates who passed the nursing board examinations that were administered on June 11-12. The reluctance is understandable because cheating marred the exams.

Who would want to receive nursing care from somebody belonging to the group that took the exams?

Already, some hospitals in the United States said they would not hire Filipino nurses who graduated this year because of the cheating.

What's the use of earning a degree in nursing if hospitals won't hire those who "passed" the tainted exams?

Filipinos are taking up nursing in droves in the hope of finding work abroad. A registered nurse in the United States can expect to earn some $36,000 a year (P1.8 million or P153,900 a month), while his or her counterpart in the Philippines can expect to earn only $2,000 (P102,600 or P8,550 a month.).

The best way to remove the stigma of being a June "passer" is to take the board exams scheduled for December and pass them.

FILIPINOS in New York City are practically defined by the single occupation of nursing. They are the largest ethnic group among nurses at many hospitals in the region.

RUTH FREMSON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

'We're not hiring anyone from 2006'

Rita Villanueva-Tamse
Deputy Director for Nursing Services
Philippine General Hospital

WE ARE NOT HIRING ANYONE from 2006. But once the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) makes a decision and after they have passed all the stringent measures we have implemented, we are willing to consider hiring them.

They have to present to us the certificate from PRC that they passed the nursing board exams. This will come after the decision of whether to nullify the exam or not. They still have to decide on that.

We have a stricter screening process. It may sound unfair to others, but given the situation, this is the best that we can do. In fact, we have allocated 30 percent of the 100 points of an applicant for the nursing proficiency exam. The applicant has to get a high percentage of that 30 percent, and he or she should come from schools with outstanding performance—the Top 12, as reported by the Commission on Higher Education technical committee on nursing education for 2000 and 2004.

Before, we accommodated graduates of high-performing schools, but this time we are only willing to take those from the Top 12 because they have good exposure, they have good related learning experiences, they have their own base hospital, and especially our graduates, because they come from our institution and they have been exposed to Philippine General Hospital.

Purge

We are very sad about what is happening. This is a controversy that nursing does not need at this time. But again, this is an opportunity to purge the nursing profession. This is just a validation of our fears that schools will do everything in order to show they are producing good nurses.

In a hospital, we can't say that this is Pedro, a graduate of June 2006. We're not supposed to tell the patient that. But as administrators, it is our responsibility to our patients that they get good nursing care. If we take them in, it will become our responsibility to make sure they are competent. This is the risk we are going to take. I don't think patients will have time to ask, "Are you a graduate of 2006?" I haven't heard a patient ask a nurse where he or she came from because once he or she is in, he or she becomes a PGH nurse. I hope patients will not ask. I hope being suspicious of the people taking care of them does not become a burden for patients.

The issue has become a national controversy and has been picked up by international nursing organizations. We are not condoning it [the leakage of test questions and answers in the board exams]. In fact, we are raising hell to remedy the situation, and we want our nurses to retake the exams and prove to others they have the integrity and the competency to pass. They [other countries] will pick it up as something we don't tolerate, something we don't sweep under the rug but rather, that we are there to protect the integrity of nursing. After several months, the controversy will die down especially if we are able to treat it well and resolve it in the best possible terms.

Structural changes

There are a lot of policy and structural changes that should be done. First, we have to look into the policy of our nursing association recommending members of the Board of Nursing. The PRC has given the task [of nominating members of the BON] to the professional organization [Philippine Nurses Association]. We have to review the criteria, seek out people who have integrity.

Second is how the organization handles controversies like this. People with a conflict of interest should think hard about their priority. Will it be the school, the hospital or the nursing profession?

Third, we should look into our own selves. As nurses, what are the values we need to imbibe? There are core values in nursing that we have to project, live and breathe. We have to go back to the values of caring, commitment, integrity. It's time we think of our own accountability to patients and of our role in the health care system to recoup the dignity of nursing.

Retake exams

Personally, I am in favor of a retake, at the very least of Tests III and V.

But the stand of the PGH is that we can take them in as long as they provide the PRC certificate. We are not entertaining as yet anyone from 2006 because of the legalities and because we do not condone what happened. We want the truth to come out. We will not make this a career-ending situation. If we finally take them in, we will assist them in moving on.

In the end it will be for the improvement of the profession and making it the best. We're not saying this so that we could export our nurses, but for our own people. PGH is *makamasa, makatao*. We want to give the people the best service. *Interview by Leila Salaverria*

Nursing board exams (1994-June 2006)

Date	Examinees	Passers	Percent
Apr. 1996	14,000	7,570	54
Nov. 1996	11,163	6,073	54
May 1997	11,025	5,386	49
Nov. 1997	8,521	4,390	52
May 1998	8,892	4,817	54
Nov. 1998	8,209	4,724	58
May 1999	6,847	3,513	51
Nov. 1999	6,305	3,045	48
Apr. 2000	4,665	2,371	51
Dec. 2000	4,605	2,230	48
June 2001	4,418	2,405	54
Dec. 2001	3,851	2,025	53
June 2002	4,928	2,292	47
Dec. 2002	4,521	1,936	43
June 2003	7,979	4,215	53
Dec. 2003	7,627	3,311	43
June 2004	13,194	7,371	56
Dec. 2004	12,100	5,210	43
June 2005	26,000	12,843	49
Dec. 2005	24,287	13,108	54
June 2006	42,006	17,821	42

SOURCE: PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION
COMPILED BY CYRIL BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH

'Give them a chance'

Dr. Humberto Villareal
Hospital director
Medical Center Parañaque

THE HOSPITAL IS NOT TOTALLY closing its doors on the nurses who passed the recent licensure examinations. But there is really a stigma attached to it (cheating), if you think of the implication that it may have on all the June board passers.

It would be a pity to those who passed the board on their own merit if they would not be given the chance to prove their worth. They deserve to have a chance. However, there are so many things to consider.

In our hospital, all applicants go through a set of rigid examinations, just like taking the board. There are fill in the blanks and oral tests. (But to the applicants who passed the board in June) we will also have to individualize the screening. *Interview by Jocelyn R. Uy*

'Scandal must be resolved soon'

Lourdes Jacinto,
Administrator
Saint Louis University Hospital of the Sacred Heart, Baguio City

HOSPITAL OFFICIALS HAVE NOT discussed the "remote possibility" of discriminating against the board passers of the June exams, despite SLU's involvement in exposing the cheating in Baguio City.

[Mary Grace Lacanaria, SLU nursing school dean, had been one of the key people who exposed cheating during the June 11 and 12 licensure exams for nurses.]

The SLU hospital relies on graduates of the SLU School of Nursing for its staff requirements. SLU has been consistently among the top nursing schools in the country because almost all of its graduates pass the annual board examinations.

The scandal should not affect SLU's process of hiring new nurses because applicants are still required to undergo a battery of tests before they are admitted into the hospital.

But the scandal must be resolved soon. Although SLU does not see any long-term damage to the nursing profession, it might affect the operations of other nursing schools.

There are too many nursing schools and one can't help but worry that even computer schools nowadays offer nursing courses.

Interview by Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

'Students not to blame'

Dr. Romulo Busuego
Chief of Hospital
Davao Regional Hospital, Tagum City

YES, [I'M WILLING TO HIRE NURSES who passed the tainted board exams.] The students are not the ones to blame but the Professional Regulation Commission, review center owners and some deans of nursing schools who are responsible for the scandal.

It depends [whether patients will feel comfortable or confident about the skills of these nurses.] Confidence depends on the institution the students are connected with.

Learning, experience and confidence of a practicing nurse are developed at the institution where he or she is working. The guidance of a nurse depends on the overall standards of the hospital.

Even if one is a board passer, it doesn't mean that he or she is already confident of his or her skills. It requires further exposure to clinical work.

If the institution does not have a structured training program, patients will not be confident of the skills of the nurse.

What regulatory measures should be adopted? The proliferation of nursing schools must be regulated to ensure quality education.

The upside of this is that Filipinos are hard workers. Given the chance, we want to excel.

What should be done to remove the stigma? Better regulation and quality education are ways to remove the stigma. *Interview by Joselle Badilla, Inquirer Mindanao*

We continue to hire nurses who pass legal and hospital requirements. —*St. Luke's Medical Center*

Top performing schools in the June 2006 nursing licensure examination

A. With 100 and more examinees

Rank	School	Examinees	Passers	Percent
1	Saint Louis University	339	322	95%
	West Visayas State University	129	122	95%
2	Cebu Doctors' University	145	133	92%
3	University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center	114	101	89%
4	Cebu Normal University	145	127	88%
	Saint Paul University - Iloilo	201	177	88%

B. With 30 to 99 examinees

Rank	School	Examinees	Passers	Percent
1	University of the Philippines - Manila	46	46	100%
2	Philippine Christian University - Manila	31	30	97%

SOURCE: PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION

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Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
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Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

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Cor. Peñaranda and Aguinaldo Sts.
Legazpi City
Telefax No. (052) 480-4182
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

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Execs watch for fish kill from Olongapo oil slick

By Allan Macatuno
Inquirer Central Luzon

OLONGAPO CITY—WHILE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN INTENSIFIED to clear the oil slick that has spread into the coastline of this city, local officials have warned of a possible fish kill in the affected areas in Subic Bay.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Administrator Armand Arreza said even if they have contained the oil slick, its residues remain hazardous and could pose risks to public health and the bay's marine life.

"Although we cannot quantify the environmental damage of the oil slick in the waters of Subic, we are still closely monitoring a possible fish kill," Arreza said.

He said the SBMA has also provided mitigating measures to protect the Ocean Adventure Theme Park at the Subic Bay Freeport to save several whales and dolphins from possible poisoning due to the spill.

"We have bought some dispersant agents, such as oil skimmers, as part of the clean-up efforts," Arreza said.

Mayor James Gordon Jr. said the vessel that was believed to have dumped used bunker oil off the waters of Subic Bay on Thursday might have come from Mariveles, Bataan.

He said a foreign vessel could have dislodged the used oil since no ship was anchored within Subic Bay.

Arreza has advised residents and visitors to avoid water activities, such as jet skiing, in Subic Bay "since the oil slick is hazardous to health."

The sludge has reached the beach fronts of at least 20 resorts in a 7-km stretch of shoreline in Barangay Barretto here, prompting village chief Carlito Baloy to order the temporary closure of beaches to the public.

"Most of the beaches are not suited for swimming and water sports activities," Baloy said.

"This is actually the first time we experienced this and so we are trying to gather all beach resort owners and other stakeholders to form composite teams to fast-track the clean-up operations," Gordon said.

SBMA officials were still trying to trace the source of the bunker oil that was placed in plastic bags found floating on the bay on Thursday.

"We are checking all vessels that came here [to] find out if they have the same kind of plastic bags that were dumped off Subic's waters," Arreza said.

WORKERS try to remove by hand thick oil sludge dumped into a village in Valencia, Guimaras, by a Petron tanker that spilled bunker fuel into the province's pristine waters. A similar effort is ongoing, although on a smaller scale, in Olongapo City. ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Greenpeace told to submit report on contamination

SORSOGON CITY—THE MINES AND GEOsciences Bureau urged Greenpeace International to furnish the agency a copy of its report alleging contamination at a creek near the mining area in Rapu-Rapu Island being operated by Lafayette Philippines Inc. (LPI).

On Thursday, Greenpeace released a statement claiming that tests conducted by its scientists confirmed "very high levels of toxic metals" in water samples collected from a creek allegedly contaminated by the Rapu-Rapu mining activity.

MGB Bicol director Reynulfo Juan said such report by the antimining group would remain a hearsay unless it could be verified and confirmed, saying it was not coordinated with the proper government agency.

Greenpeace earlier reported that the Mirikpitik creek near the mining area was found to be positive for cadmium, copper and zinc and blamed the mining operation for it.

"A few weeks ago, unidentified people poured a huge amount of pesticide into a creek that is the source of clean water for the residents, and started sending out text messages that Lafayette was to blame," LPI countered in a statement.

Juan said it could be easily verified whether the Greenpeace report was true or not since they have baseline data of all metals found in the area.

The Greenpeace launched a fluvial protest against Lafayette just as the Department of Environment and Natural resources gave its go signal for Stage 3 of the test run.

Juan said the MGB was now just awaiting word from the Pollution Adjudication Board so the last stage of the test run could be conducted.

Lafayette lawyer Bayani Agabin said they were preparing legal action against Greenpeace for trespassing and would seek the deportation of three foreigners who climbed up the company's conveyor belt on Thursday to unfurl their antimining banners for picture taking.

Agabin said "Greenpeace has gone out of bounds in its irresponsible and counter-productive photo-ops that unfortunately some media outlets fall for."

Recently, they misrepresented themselves at the DENR head office so they could go up the roof deck so photographers they had in tow could take pictures, he added.

Sorsogon Gov. Raul Lee condemned the DENR incident, saying the antimining militants had become destructive and must be dealt with accordingly by authorities. *Bobby Q. Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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I take pleasure to convey my sincerest greetings and best wishes to the ***Glad Tidings Publishing Inc. (GTPI)*** on the occasion of its 10th anniversary celebration.

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Ten successful years in the printing business is truly a cause for celebration. But it is more than just printing, it is about publishing ***good tidings***.

May the force of God be with you always in the years ahead. Mabuhay po kayo!

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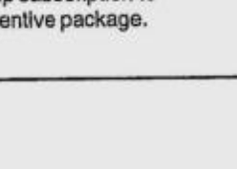

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CHR says Army blocking probe of Left killings

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"[Karapatan] got nothing from us," Barrios said in a phone interview.

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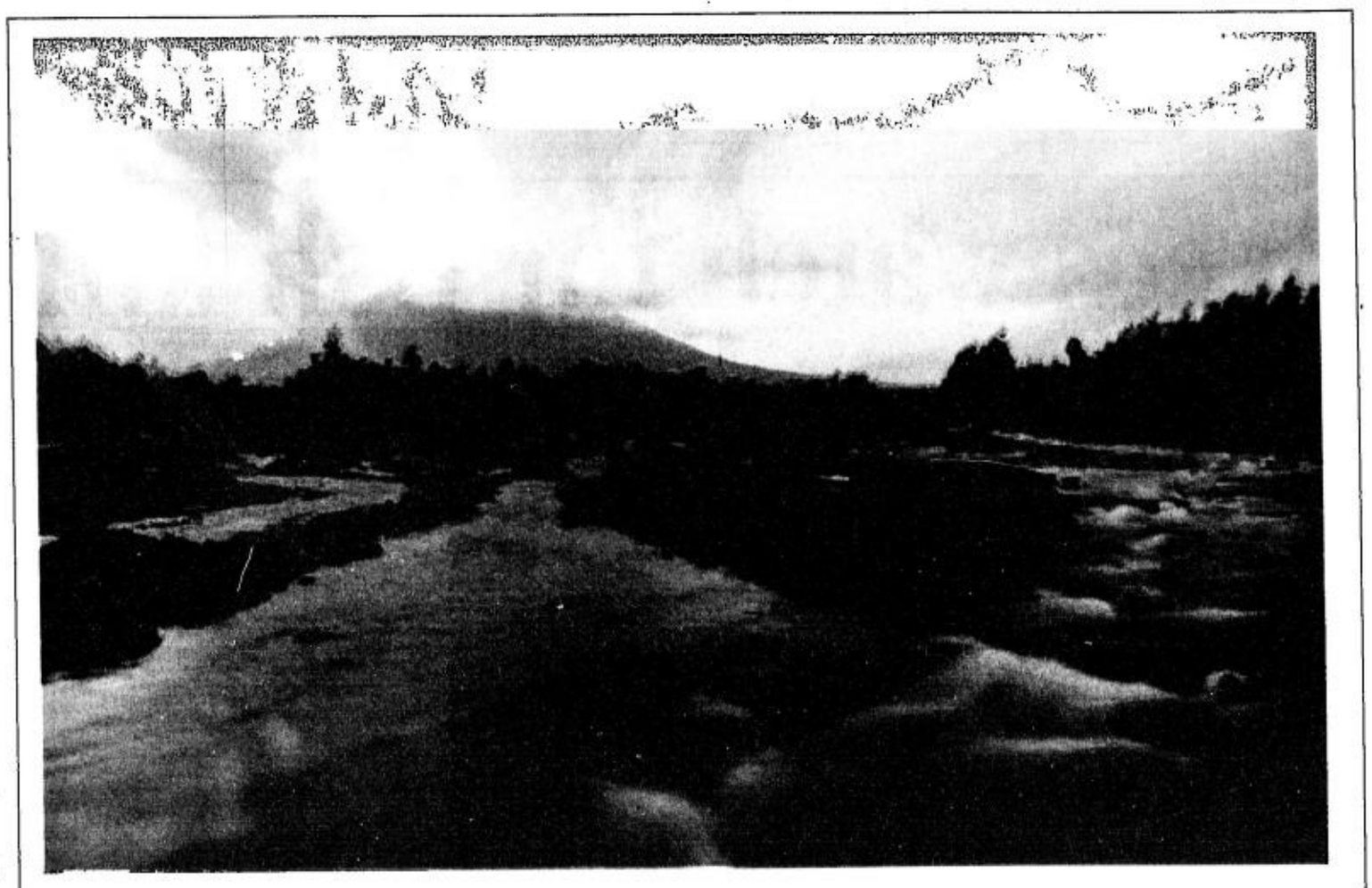

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Rebs ambush soldiers guarding tree plantation

SAN FRANCISCO, AGUSAN DEL Sur—Communist rebels ambushed a team of soldiers and security personnel of a tree plantation company in Talacogon town on Friday, government and rebel sources said yesterday.

But casualty figures differed from one source to another.

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"Our aim was to seize firearms but the soldiers fought back until reinforcements arrived," Renerio said.

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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Nico A. Alconaba**

1976 KILLER TSUNAMI

The sea emptied itself in Pagadian

By Michael F. Sarcauga
Pagadian City

SUDDENLY, THE earth shook, swaying houses for 30 seconds and waking up people in the coastal villages into a frenzied search for safety. Then, there was eerie silence that lasted for several minutes. The sea retreated, and 20 minutes later came the roar.

"[It] seemed like all the vehicles in the city had gone out of control and then followed cries of 'Water! Water! Water!'" teacher Florita de Lara, 61, recalled the night when her village, Santa Lucia, in Pagadian City was struck by a tsunami.

De Lara was lucky. Her house was strong enough to withstand the big waves. But her brother, Leo Eclavia, was swept away by the first rush.

Eclavia swam in the muddied water, and if not for a coconut tree where he clung to for dear life as wave receded for another sweep, he would have been swallowed by the sea.

"The house I stayed in was swept away and I went out and swam because it looked like it might collapse. There was mud all over and it was difficult to swim as it was very dark. I saw a coconut tree and I held tight to it as water retreated into the sea," Eclavia said.

SOME of the houses that were destroyed by huge waves in the village of White Beach in Pagadian City. At least 25 houses were destroyed while 50 suffered damages when the waves struck, reminding villagers of the 1976 tsunami that destroyed most of Pagadian. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL SARCAUGA

Midnight tragedy

It was 12:11 midnight of Aug. 17, 1976 when a magnitude-7.9 earthquake of tectonic origin in the Cotabato trench off the Moro Gulf shook western and central Mindanao.

Around 20 minutes after the tremor, five to seven meters high of waves struck the coastal towns of Cotabato, Zamboanga del Sur and parts of the Lanao provinces. Hardest hit was Pagadian.

Santa Lucia barangay chair Fernandito Mondarte was then an engineering graduate reviewing for the board examination. He recalled that water in the drainage system in front of his house suddenly disappeared.

"We went outside after the earthquake to avoid being hit by falling debris in the house and then I noticed that the water in the canal suddenly withdrew to the sea. It was then we heard grumbling and swooshing sounds coming from the ocean," Mondarte recalled.

"I saw people panic, shouting about waves, big waves ... and then it happened—we were engulfed by a tidal wave," he said.

Village Councilor Samuel Dequito and his wife, who was pregnant at that time, were already floating when they saw another wave approaching.

"It was dark, but I saw the wave. It carried with it mud and debris, maybe from crushed shanties or boats. We were just lucky we were not hit by the debris or were covered by mud," he said.

1,440 dead

The Office of Civil Defense recorded five tsunamis and a series of big waves triggered by the quake. A total of 1,440 people died in Zamboanga del Sur, 7,701 people were injured, and 909 were reported missing and believed to have drowned at sea.

Most of the fatalities were residents of the coastal villages of Pagadian.

A total of 49,848 people lost their homes.

Of the 11 coastal villages in Pagadian, Santa Lucia was the hardest hit because it was more populated and several communities are situated in the mangrove areas.

Mondarte remembered that when the waves subsided, hundreds of bodies littered the village. Houses were destroyed and uprooted, while mud was all over.

Disaster preparedness

The big loss of lives and properties brought Pagadian down on its knees. A small and unknown city then, the tragedy had marked it as one of the places worst-hit by natural calamities.

On its 30th year, the city government and the Office of Civil Defense organized an elaborate month-long campaign of earthquake and tsunami preparedness drills.

"The preservation of lives is still paramount importance and this earthquake and tsunami drills are aimed at informing how we can avoid loss of lives when calamities like earthquake and tsunamis occur," said Mayor Samuel Co, who leads the campaign as incident commander.

The exercise dubbed "Balod" or wave is participated in by 11 coastal villages.

"The benefit of this drill is to familiarize the people on what to do, and we plan to hold this annually to raise their awareness," the mayor added.

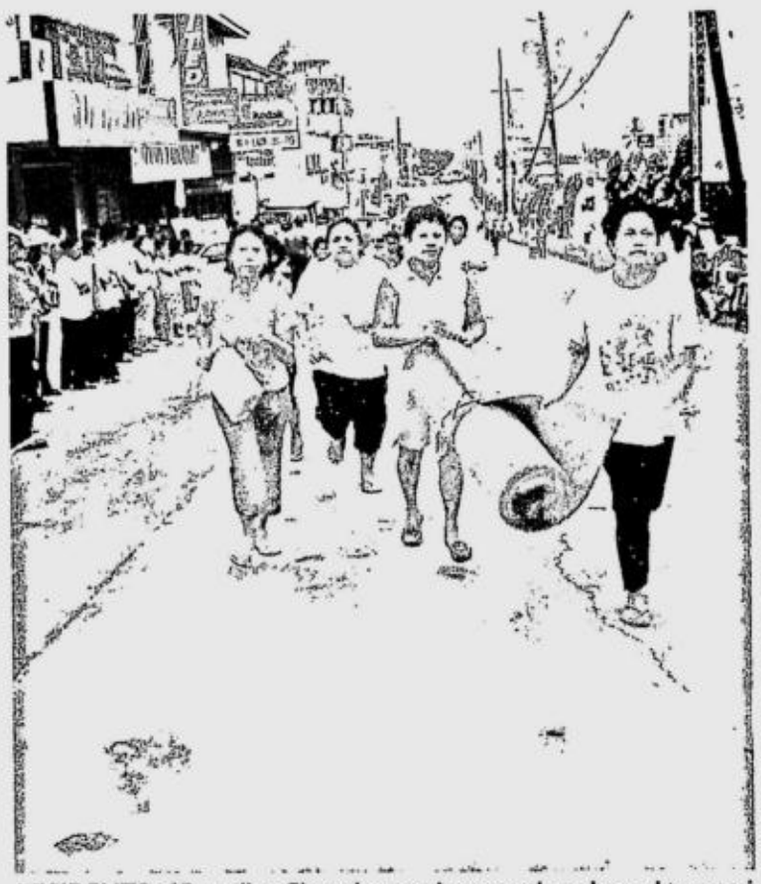
60-second warning

On Aug. 17, at 3 p.m., bells rang simultaneously in the areas, while a siren wailed downtown to signal the start of the drill.

In the scenario and sequence of events prepared by organizers, the 60-second warning indicated a magnitude-8.0 earthquake. Local officials went to every house to alert occupants about the impending danger.

The people slowly trooped to the city center where a marker was erected in memory of those killed during the 1976 tsunami.

"We chose the site as the area where evacuating people can reach safety because it was the farthest point that the waves reached during the calamity in 1976," Co said.

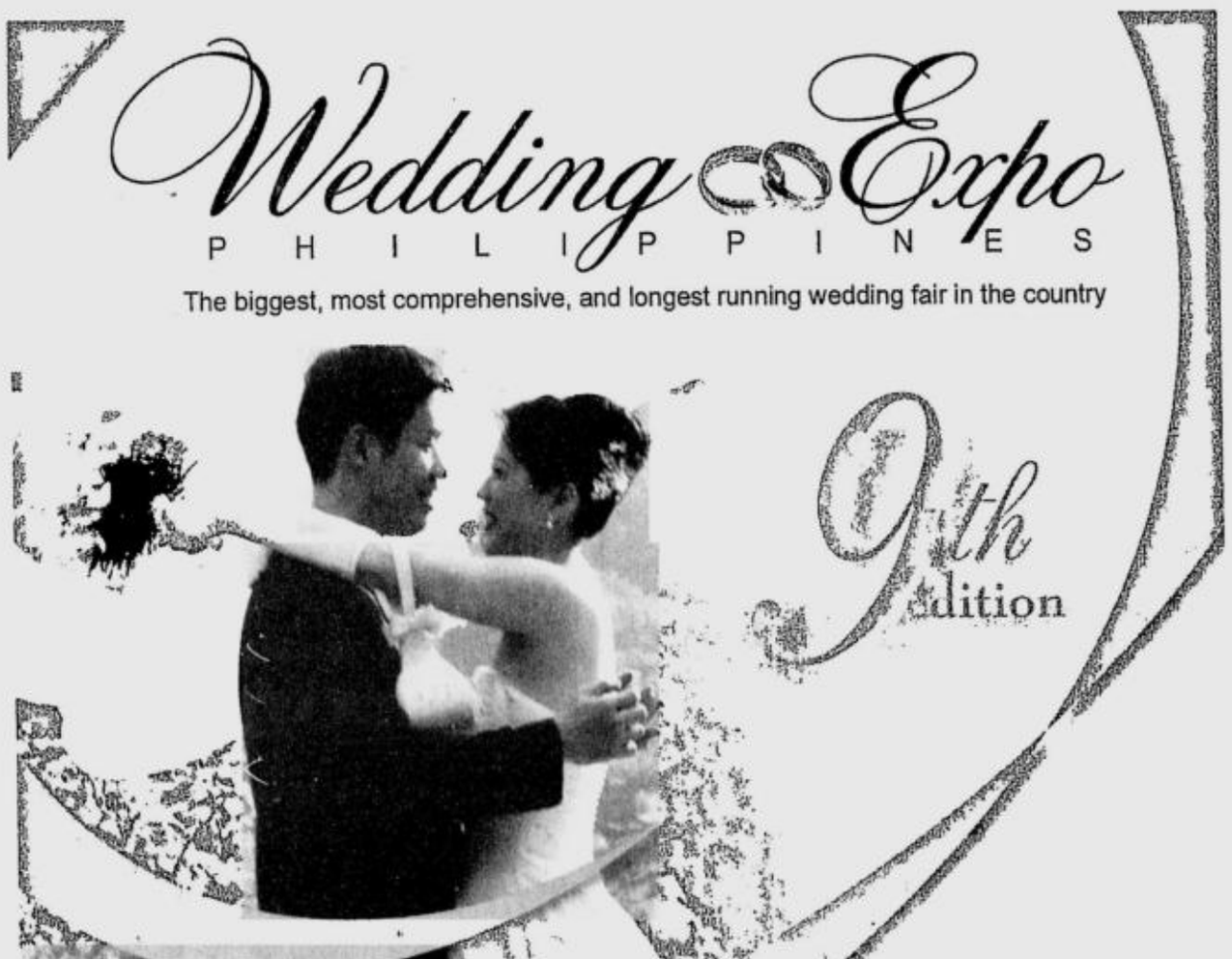


RESIDENTS of Pagadian City take part in an earthquake and tsunami drill in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the day a tsunami struck on the coastlines of Pagadian, killing 1,440 people.

'[It] seemed like all the vehicles in the city had gone out of control and then followed cries of 'Water! Water! Water!'

THESE houses stood no chance against huge waves that struck Aug. 17 on the village of White Beach in Pagadian City. Despite the memories of the 1976 tsunami remaining fresh, people insisted in building houses near the shore.

'I saw people panic, shouting about waves, big waves ... and then it happened —we were engulfed by a tidal wave'



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Nursing grads leave anyway to try luck abroad

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—SOME GOVERNMENT employees who passed the June licensure examinations for nurses have decided to try their luck abroad even without their licenses.

Jude Accos, a government forester who decided to shift to a nursing career, said many of his fellow government workers who did likewise were convinced that a Philippine nursing license was not necessary if they could pass the licensing exams given in other countries like the United States which conducts the National Council Licensure Examinations for Practical Nurses (NCLEx).

Accos said many of his fellow workers, including officials of regional agencies in Northern Luzon, had already filed for leaves of absence to explore job opportunities abroad or to take the NCLEx. He said he was only following their lead.

Officials of the Philippine Nurses Association said they anticipated an exodus of new nursing graduates despite the crisis caused by allegations of cheating in the June 11 and 12 nursing board exams.

Ruth Thelma Tingda, a PNA governor, said nothing would prevent the 42,000 examinees who took the tainted exams from trying their luck in other countries.

Stigma of cheating

"Countries in the Mediterranean don't require Philippine licenses. Some states in America also do not make it their prerequisite [for hiring]," she said.

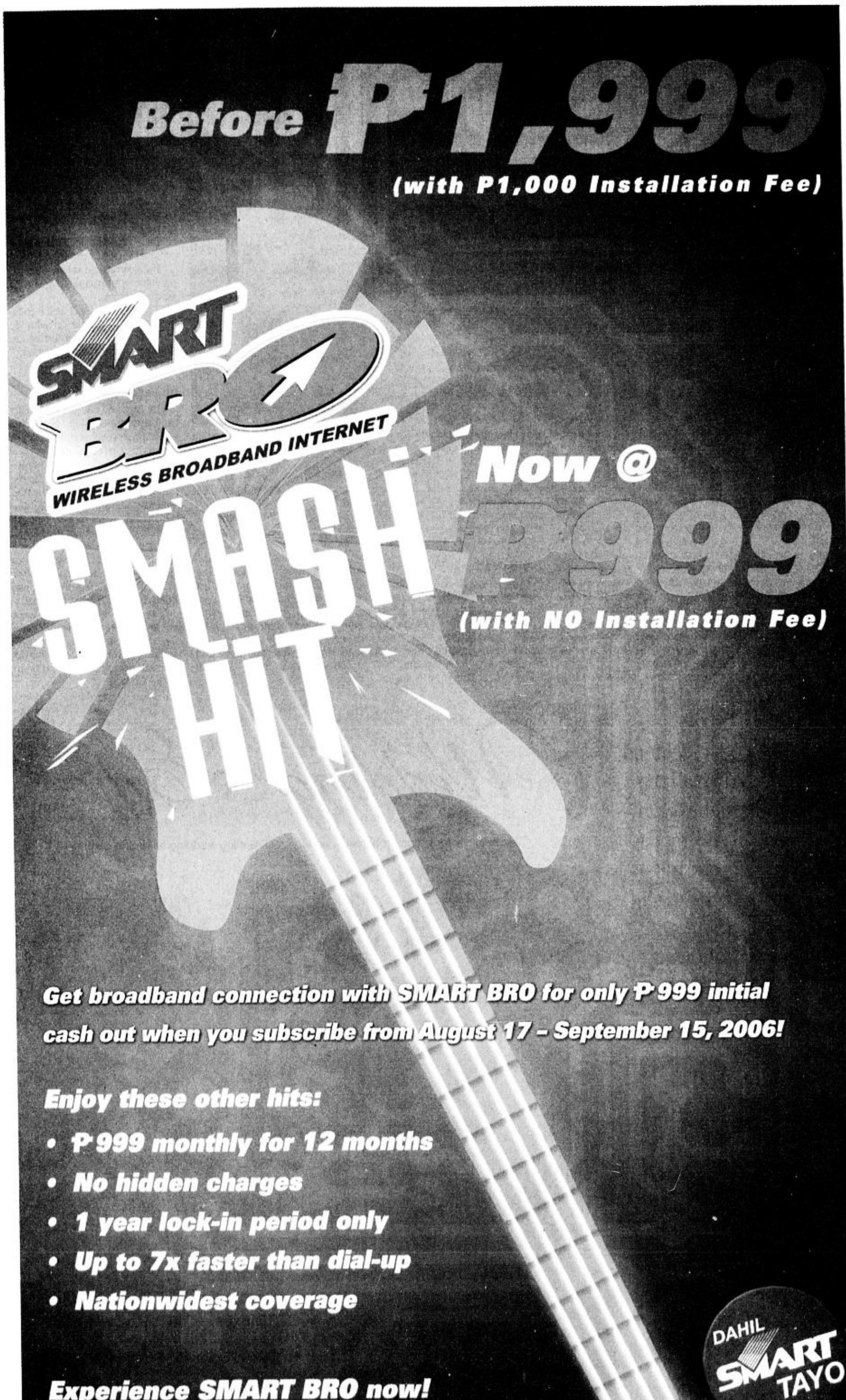
"But [the June examinees] still have to contend with the stigma of cheating. Overseas employers have already advised the [government] that they may not hire licensed nurses who took the June board exams," said Mary Grace Lacanaria, chapter president of the Association of Deans of Philippine Nursing Schools.

Largest group

Tingda, Lacanaria and 92 Baguio examinees went public in June about leaked test questions that were allegedly distributed by certain review centers.

Lacanaria, who is also the dean of the St. Louis University's school of nursing, said many nursing graduates this year took nursing as their second courses.

The Professional Regulation Commission described the June batch of examinees as the largest group of nursing licensure applicants in history, although only more than 17,000 of the 42,000 examinees passed the tests.



Asean pact to benefit nurses–TUCP

By Jerome Aning

THE TRADE UNION CONGRESS OF THE Philippines yesterday said Filipino nurses could look forward to greater employment opportunities abroad in the coming months with the scheduled adoption of a new agreement liberalizing the trade in professional nursing services within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

"Our nurses can count on easier access to the lucrative job markets of Asean members once the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) on Nursing Services comes into force," said Ernesto Herrera, TUCP secretary general.

Summit in Cebu

The agreement will definitely be signed during the 12th Asean Summit in Cebu in December, according to the former senator.

"The covenant essentially means that Philippine-licensed nurses will be automatically recognized as nurse practitioners by other Asean members," Herrera said.

Asean is composed of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma (Myanmar), the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Expedite recognition

Herrera said the MRA would expedite the recognition of the qualifications of Filipino nurses and, thus, considerably ease their recruitment and deployment within Asean.

"This means our nurses do not have to take the national nurse licensure examinations of other Asean members to be able to practice in those countries," he said.

He said that right now, for example, Singapore recognizes nurses from Malaysia and Brunei, but the city-state does not recognize nurses from the Philippines.

Part of free trade agreement

For a Filipino nurse to practice in Singapore, he or she has to pass the city-state's nurse eligibility test, similar to the United States National Council (of State Boards of Nursing) Licensure Examinations for Registered Nurses or NCLEx-RN.

At present, most of the 4,000 foreign nurses working in Singapore are Filipinos. They all had to pass Singapore's nurse licensure test, he said.

"The Philippines will be the MRA's biggest beneficiary, since we are now the world's biggest exporter of nurses," he said, adding that since the MRA is mutual, the country would also automatically recognize nurses from other Asean members.

He said the MRA is part of a free trade agreement initiative that had been in the works for years and was finalized only this month, ahead of the December summit.

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Life in the wild in the heart of the city

Metropolis' first flora center soon to open at Manila Orchidarium

By Tina G. Santos

A FEW MONTHS FROM NOW, the Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavilion in Manila will no longer just be a simple garden serving as a repository for vanishing native plants and a venue where promises of newlyweds are forged.

The Clean and Green Foundation Inc. (C&GFI) which established the Orchidarium in 1995—in partnership with Nokia Philippines—is "upgrading" the 9,000-sq.-m. property into a flora research center, the first of its kind in the metropolis.

"Our goal is to develop the area into a place where experts, gardening enthusiasts, researchers and students can go to conduct studies and experiments, particularly in horticulture and other plant sciences," said Andres Golamco, Orchidarium's consultant for garden operations.

A WATERFALL welcomes visitors to the Orchidarium. PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI

THE PHILIPPINES is one of the few orchid diversity havens worldwide.

Eloisa Zulueta, managing director, said the ongoing makeover of the garden got an added push because of the lack of an honest-to-goodness research center in Metro Manila.

"This is unfortunate because the country is considered to be one of a few orchid diversity havens in the world," Zulueta said. "While orchid shows are held regularly in malls and parks, these exhibits only allow the sale of plants and the holding of workshops on orchid care. Exhibitors rarely allow their merchandise to be studied by those who are interested in orchids."

King and Queen

An utterly fascinating green world, the Orchidarium is home to about 1,300 species of orchids, two of which are the *grammatophyllum*, the "king," of orchids whose flowers can grow up to two meters and the *vanda sanderiana* or *waling-waling*, the "queen."

A lot of the country's endemic and indigenous plants and flowers, including palms, ferns, dendrobiums, bromeliads and heliconias can also be found in the garden which used to be a parking lot behind the Museum of the Filipino People on Teodoro F. Valencia Circle in Rizal Park.

Golamco said they hope to come up with an even bigger collection of species of Philippine orchids and ornamentals "to become worthy of being called a research center."

"We hope to include endangered species of plants not only for research purposes but also for the benefit of the other generations to come," he stressed.

To achieve their goal, Golamco said their priority would be the construction of a nursery where young plants can be grown and later sold for the upkeep of the garden, the establishment of a workshop area where flora enthusiasts can learn a thing or two about gardening and a bigger library for books and other useful research materials on plants.

Virgin forest

One portion of the property is already being transformed to look like a virgin forest complete with an artificial stream. To be called "Pook ni Maria Makiling," the area will showcase unusual kinds of plants and fruit-bearing Philippine trees.

Humidity-control modules are also being built to increase the garden's moisture level to at least 50 percent. This will be complemented by more falls and ponds, Golamco said.

"Mist generators would be distributed throughout the garden to create a fog-like effect which would water the orchids' thirsty roots when there are no rains or

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No parties for this royalty

Prince Andrea of Monaco would rather visit the poor in Payatas than hobnob with the elite

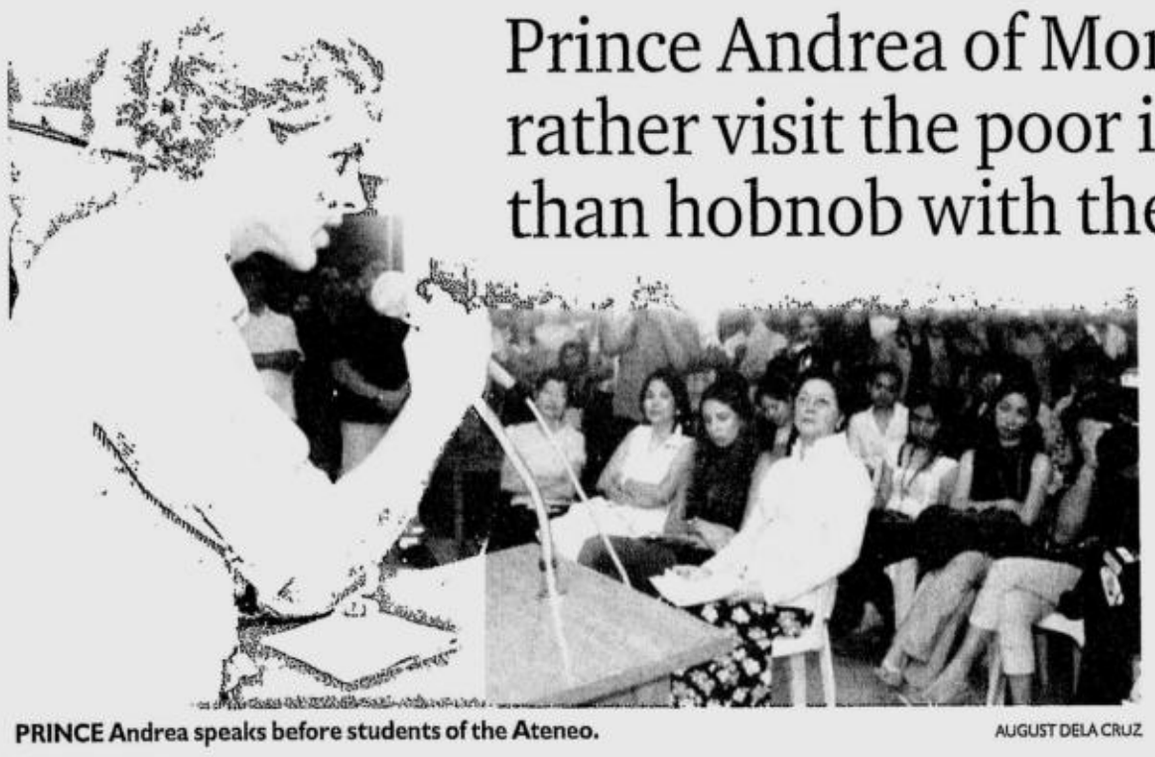
By DJ Yap

UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN MANILA, Andrea Pierre Casiraghi of Monaco was deluged with invitations to parties and social engagements, but the handsome prince politely declined most of them.

One of the world's most eligible bachelors would much rather spend his time with the boys and girls of Payatas, Quezon City.

The 22-year-old son of Princess Caroline was not in town for a social call, but to touch base with Filipino children living in some of the most destitute communities in the country and find out what can be done to help them.

He came upon the invitation of Amade-Virlanie Foundation, an organization dedicated to giving shelter and support to abused children, of which his mother is a patron.



PRINCE Andrea speaks before students of the Ateneo. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

The visit was, in his own words, his way of "making a difference, a very small difference" in the lives of poor Filipino children.

On Friday, Andrea spoke before a group of students at the Ateneo de Manila University about the role and the responsibility of the privileged class in helping the less fortunate among them.

"No step is too small. As my mother always says, if you have to turn off a volcano with a glass of water, you should do it," he said.

Glass of water

"Think of yourself as that little glass of water that makes a difference in the world," he said.

Andrea recalled an experience at Paco Market: "Suddenly, 15-16 kids appeared out of nowhere: Five-, six-, seven-year-old orphans using drugs, not knowing how to read, never having had a roof to sleep under."

Wake-up call

He told the students: "You are very, very, very lucky... You should ask yourself: Do I want this situation to continue?"

"You should have the strength to look into yourself and say, do I want to be part of the 10 percent of the Filipinos who can go to university and do nothing about that? Do I want to leave 90 percent of the population without an education? I'm sure you don't."

TALES OF THE CITY

'Horrible place'

Andrea also described going to Payatas: "Deadly waste mountain. Horrible place that I've ever been to."

At this point, many of the Ateneo students laughed, prompting the prince to remark: "I don't understand why you're laughing; it's very serious."

He urged the students to reach out to the poorest communities. "Next time I come, I want to see that people will go to the shanty towns. Lucky people like you, who have education, who (belong to the elite) of the nation."

"I've seen amazing things in the Philippines. I've seen things like no other in developed countries. But I've seen extreme poverty, too. And these differences cannot continue," he said.

Father Carmelo Caluag, one of the organizers, said Andrea's schedule for his trip to the Philippines spoke volumes about his commitment toward helping children.

No time to relax

"For his original itinerary, he was supposed to go on trips to our world-class resorts, but he asked that most of them be cancelled so he can have more time to visit the places being served by Amade-Virlanie," he said.

"When told that more people wanted to host parties for him, again he politely declined. He said he had more important work to do," Caluag said.

He said what impressed him most about Andrea were his photos in the local press the past days: "A young man simply dressed, carrying a poor infant, seated with less privileged, smiling kids, the picture of youth that exudes kindness, and compassion and hope."

Andrea is the eldest son of Princess Caroline and her second husband, Stefano Casiraghi, an heir to an Italian oil fortune. He is second in line to the throne after his mother.

Blonde and athletic, he was named one of People Magazine's 50 Most Beautiful People in 2002. He is fluent in English, French, German and Italian.

"I'VE SEEN amazing things in the Philippines. But I've seen extreme poverty, too."

METROBRIEFS

New classrooms for students

SOME 2,000 students in Parañaque City who were displaced when a fire gutted their school would soon have new classrooms to return to. This was announced recently by Mayor Florencio Bernabe Jr. who told reporters that the Department of Public Works and Highways has promised to help finance the construction of a 32-classroom building in Barangay San Dionisio, where the old school used to stand. "We need P40 million to build a new school but we had no available funds," Bernabe said in an interview. A big blaze razed the Parañaque Elementary School (Main) and the San Dionisio Elementary School late last month. To accommodate the students, classes are held in three shifts. The mayor, meanwhile, bared plans for the construction of a science high school and a city college next year. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

Photographers forum set today

TWENTY-ONE participants in the ongoing Asia-Europe Forum for Young Photographers will share their "photo stories" on the youth in Metro Manila at the SM Mall of Asia at 6 p.m. today. The forum, co-organized by the Philippine Center for Photojournalism, the Asia-Europe Foundation, the World Press Photo Foundation, aims to create a network of young photographers and provide a platform for discussion on the professional aspects of photojournalism. Magdalena Herrera, art director and head of photography for National Geographic Magazine (France), Hans-Jürgen Burkard, photographer for Stern and Geo Magazine (Germany) and veteran Filipino photojournalists Alex Baluyut and Romeo Gacad of Agence France Presse were among those who facilitated the forum. For more information, please contact Jimmy Domingo at 0918-9212878 or Dennis Sabangan at 0920-9601191.

Life in the wild in the heart

when the sun is too hot for the delicate flowers and leaves," he added.

Through the years, the Orchidarium has gone to great lengths to be accessible—and fun—not only for its visitors but also for foresters, horticulturists and entomologists who act as tour guides, providing visitors with a wealth of information.

"There would be more ecology-based games and lessons to ensure that students would no longer look at Science classes as boring," said Zulueta, who added that even the garden staff's competencies for handling tours and workshops would also be enhanced.

Snake pit

But C&GFI, with the help of a P4 million financial grant from Nokia, assured park visitors of a more thrilling visit as they plan to build a tree house and a hanging bridge with a snake pit underneath.

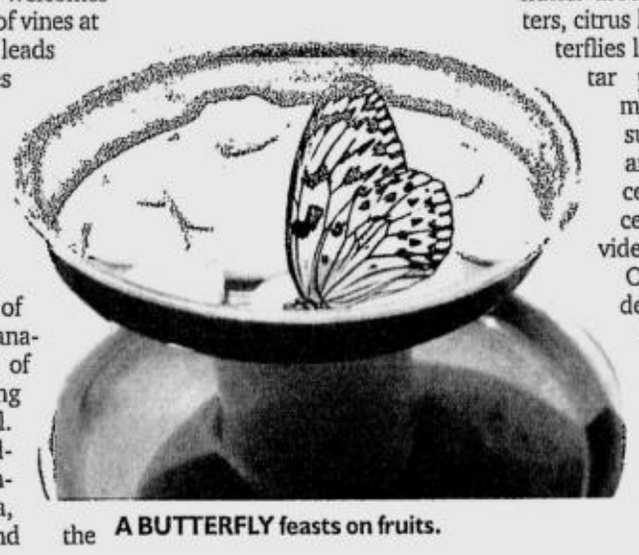
Gerald Penaflor, marketing manager of Nokia, said the mobile phone company would also continue its "Nokia Reconnection" program which is regularly held to give schoolchildren from public schools and underprivileged organizations the rare opportunity to experience the rich and diverse environment of the Philippines via the Orchidarium.

One of Manila's favorite leisure area for students, lovers, families and anyone who needs a little quiet time, the Orchidarium gets its share of visitors who are interested in educational lectures and demonstrations on caring for garden plants. Others find it a good place to get inspiration or borrow ideas for special landscaping designs suitable to city gardening, particularly where pollution and lifestyle pose special challenges and demands.

Every bit of planted space at Orchidarium has been carefully designed and sections are delineated by catchy names. For example, from the entrance gate that faces Agrifina Circle, a path welcomes visitors under a display of vines at the Trellis of Waves that leads to the Philippine Species Island, a showcase of plants that can only be found in the country.

Palm Beach is another stop in the walk through the garden where the landscape groups a collection of palms featuring the anahaw, the national leaf of the Philippines, growing in sand-covered soil. Other palms in the collection include the Fishtail, Blue Palm, Pinanga, Majestic Palm and the MacArthur Palm.

THE ORCHIDARIUM supplies live butterflies for weddings.



A BUTTERFLY feasts on fruits.

Vanda Alliance

The garden has also an impressive collection of vandas—cultivated orchids that are considered to be the most magnificent genus of the orchid family—at the Vanda Alliance.

Visitors can likewise experience horticultural excellence at the Fern Gully, a depository of a variety of ferns; Heli-pad, for heliconias; Dendro Hill for dendrobiums; and Brome Beds for bromeliads.

Two other collections that should not be missed by visitors are the Hibiscus Patch and the Donyas garden because they showcase different hybrids, mostly propagated by Filipino plant breeders. The Donyas garden proves that *mussaenda* plants can thrive in rural conditions. They are all named after the Philippines' first ladies.

Hibiscus Patch, on the other hand, is where all varieties of gumamela named after Filipina heroines of 1898 grow, lending their bright colors to the surrounding green. Former first lady Amelita Ramos, an orchid fancier herself who is also the chair of the C&GFI, displays her favorite plants, including bromeliads, in Ming's Corner.

While the park remains an oasis that offers something for most age groups, what visitors enjoy most are the Rocky Trail, a challenge for the intrepid to test their endurance and skills as they climb the 30-ft wall; and the Water Experience wherein one can wander between a waterfall and a rock wall.

Reflexology Walk

Parkgoers can also take off their shoes or sandals and walk barefoot to experience the healing and soothing attractions of the Reflexology Walk; or bait their hooks and fish at the Mystic Lagoon.

But the Butterfly Pavilion, where one gets lessons in lepidopterology (study of butterflies) firsthand, remains a hands-down favorite among visitors. The pavilion is so designed that the visitor is led through a pathway where each stop corresponds to a phase in the life of the butterfly—from dot-like eggs, creepy caterpillar, suspended chrysalis, and, finally, to magnificent adult.

At least 10 species of butterflies flutter around lantanas, star clusters, citrus host plants (where butterflies lay their eggs) and nectar plants (their favorite meal). Artificial hosts such as overripe fruits and a solution of 10 percent sugar and 90 percent water are also provided.

One of the services rendered by the Orchidarium is supplying live butterflies for weddings. As an alternative to rice and flower petals, butterflies are more nature-friendly, said Zulueta.

The end of the garden pathway leads to the Scented Greens where a collection of sweet-smelling plants and flowers like sampaguita, dama de noche, ylang-ylang, among others, can be found. A house of reptiles that feature snakes donated by activist priest Fr. Robert Reyes can also be viewed beside the pavilion.

A DISPLAY of vines at the Trellis of Waves, one of the sections featured in the garden.

For the birds, too

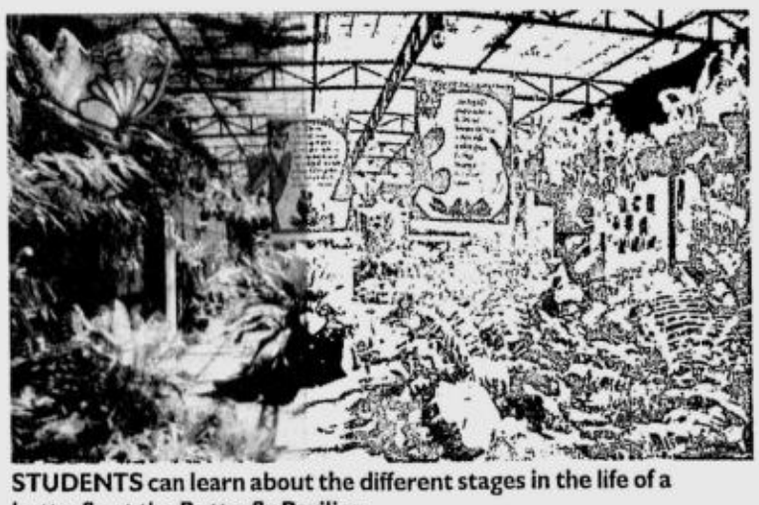
The Orchidarium's lush foliage has made it a favorite nesting place for many birds, Golamco said, adding that the vivid greenery seems to mask even the foul smell of smoke coming from vehicles.

After nature-tripping, parkgoers can feast on the gastronomical delights offered by Barbara's, a restaurant right at the center of the garden.

There is so much else to see at Orchidarium. After a fairly short tour, one learns a great deal about the environment while getting a glimpse of an idyllic life in the wild right in the heart of the city.

(The Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavilion is open daily (except Mondays), from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entrance fees are P100 for adults and P60 for students and senior citizens. Special rates are given for educational tours)

THE ORCHIDARIUM has an impressive collection of vandas.



STUDENTS can learn about the different stages in the life of a butterfly at the Butterfly Pavilion.

THE LUSH foliage in the area has made it a favorite nesting place for birds, too.

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GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life f

Ex-Freestyle bassist now plays Down Under

By Franco Emman Von M. Cena

HE IS ONE OF THE founding members of the Freestyle band when it broke into the music scene in 1998. But after recording his last gig with the gang a year ago, Carlo Tapia finally made his move to try his luck in the land Down Under.

It took almost four years of weighing options before former bassist Carlo Tapia decided to leave the band and continue life with his family in Sydney, Australia where he works as a concierge.

"It was a tough decision, but one I made with my family in mind. I knew migrating was inevitable," Carlo told INQUIRER adding they only wanted the best for their only daughter, 3-year-old Sabine Isabel.

Married to Kriscia Kapunan for four years now, Carlo said that raising their daughter in Australia is ultimately good for the child who is enrolled in an Australian playschool.

"Kriscia and I know how we want to raise Sabine, and in Australia, we can achieve that," he said.

Carlo and Kriscia met in 1996 in one of their gigs in Davao when Freestyle was only starting out. He was 19 then while the 18 year-old Kriscia was in town visiting her family.

"Sitting in the audience, she caught my eye and I felt I had to meet her," Carlo said. "There was a strong connection between us but it went no further because she didn't believe in long distance relationships. We stayed friends but somehow lost contact for many years."

BEST OF TIMES: Tapia and wife Kriscia (center) with other band members and friends during a dinner in Manila, standing from left: Nikki and Timmy Cabardo, Celeste Pacana, Gerald and Anna Banzon, Mike Luis; seated from left: Tat and Jinky Suzara, Joshua and Aileen Desiderio.

Getting married

Then in 2000, when Carlo was already working in Manila, Kriscia came home. But her stay and time spent with Carlo during trips and gigs went beyond friendship. After that, "we were inseparable," he said.

They exchanged vows in Davao, May 2002, and plans of migration were discussed thereafter.

But it was not easy for this Freestyle bassist to just leave the band while Freestyle is constantly topping the charts and reaping accolades here and abroad. Their powerhouse of rich harmonies and vocals has produced hits like "Before I let you go," "So slow" and their revival of "Bakit ngayon ka lang," among others.

However, in December 2005, this 29-year-old Management graduate from Ateneo de Davao University left Manila but with the "blessing and love" of his bandmates, he recounted.

"I left with their blessings and love, and we were drinking and laughing until dawn on the eve of my last day in Manila. There were no problems; I made sure that there would be a smooth transition when I left," he said.

TAPIA, wife Kriscia, and daughter Sabine Isabel shooting the breeze one Sunday at a park in Sydney.

Early days

Carlo is now replaced by Rommel de la Cruz on bass and joined by new voices of Mike Luis and Joshua Desiderio. Still playing catchy Pinoy tunes are pioneers Jinky Vidal (vocals), Tat Suzara (guitar), Gerald Banzon (drums) and Nikki Cabardo (keyboards).

A native of Matina, Davao City, Carlo started his music career with the rock band "Wasted Youth" when college schoolmates Jinky Vidal and Tat Suzara thought of forming a band.

In 1994, Freestyle was born in their first gig at the Penec Bar at the Apo View Hotel in Davao. The group started with seven young musicians who blended together successfully.

"It was Tat's idea to call the band 'Freestyle' for the night and then we decided to keep the name for good," he said.

The band is one of the country's OPM heavyweights and most sought-after groups, with their knack for filling venues with their smooth and soulful rendition of R&B and pop hits.

Best years in band

He spent the best years of his life with the band, he said, adding that his fellow band members are almost like "family."

"It (band) was my comfort zone; I loved what I was doing. I never really thought about traveling before but with Freestyle, I got to see, many places, meet lots of interesting people, and basically did things I didn't think I would do. The busy schedule sometimes took its toll on me, but it was all worth it," he said.

He first broke the news of his move to Sydney to bandmates Nikki Cabardo and Gerald Banzon. He told the rest of his mates a week after.

"I left the band on a high note with my last gig being recorded as the CD/DVD concert "Live at 19east," he said.

With Carlo employed in Swissotel Sydney while his wife works in University of Sydney, money was no big deal for them. They are now living in with his in-laws.

The couple has bought their own house and are planning to move soon.

He commutes into the city for his day job. Depending on his shifts, he picks up Sabine from Playschool or meets his family at home for dinner.

Australian gigs

Though Carlo left the Philippines, he never left his music. In fact, during weekends Carlo makes gigs with other Filipino musicians and "mussos" (Aussie musicians) while he works during regular days.

On his rest days, Carlo couldn't help playing his bass guitars or catching up on football. "As a session musician, I occasionally have gigs on weekends," he said.

Carlo said migrating was easy for him since his wife and daughter are Australian citizens. He also plans of getting a citizenship soon but said that his "heart still belongs to the Philippines—to Davao" where he was born and raised.

Carlo hasn't fully adjusted to living Down Under. To him, migrating has been— and continues to be—a learning experience.

"I'm still continually adjusting to having an eight-hour job," he said adding that he also has to do the housework after the day job since they don't have a househelp in Sydney.

He cooks, cleans and babysits Sabine, Carlo said.

FOR THE LOVE OF A CHILD: Carlo Tapia, with daughter Sabine Isabel: "I want the best for her."

"It's humbling and liberating at the same time. It's hard work—physically and emotionally. But change is good, and life must go on," he said.

Asked of his future plans, Carlo said he wants "to find himself completely adjusting" to his life. Definitely, he wants to continue to play his music and teach playing bass to whoever wants to learn it, he said.

"I'm not making any grand plans," he said when asked if he wants to break into the Aussie music scene. "I just want to continue playing, be it at paid gigs or for fun, and to continue to learn and grow as a musician."

Providing his family their own home, be healthy, travel together, and provide a good education for Sabine, was what Carlo wishes to accomplish in the years to come.

Another Filipino and coworker at Swissotel saw how Carlo coped with the first months in Sydney.

"Carlo is *kenkoy*, cheerful and *maingay*, and we always talk about family and plans in life," said Jason Aberin, chief concierge at the five-star hotel.

Jason knew Carlo and wife Kriscia for years now. An Australian citizen since 1988, he helped Carlo to get into the job.

"We grew up together," Jason said adding that he went to the same school with Kriscia in Sydney. "And now I'm *ninong* (godfather) to their first born Sabine,"

"We crave for the street food that we have back home," Jason said, adding that once in while Carlo and family would cook Filipino dishes when they are together.

Carlo said that he misses his relatives and friends, the green mangoes and Pale Pilsen in the Philippines.

"But I enjoy eating out here," he said. "Australia is such a multicultural country where you can grab different types of authentic fare every night—Vietnamese, Malaysian, Lebanese, Italian, Indian, Himalayan."

From time to time, he visits the country for holidays and special occasions and he finds time to still get in touch with the gang especially to Gerald Banzon whom he talks to the most.

After a year of breaking up with the band, Carlo said that he badly misses playing and just being with them.

But he said that he is more stable now than he used to be when he was with the band in the Philippines.

"A regular person on an average salary here can have steak dinners, an overseas holiday at the end of the year, a house and a car, among others. It's definitely different from my previous 'musician's' lifestyle I got so used to though," he added.

But definitely he will be back, he said.

"I am looking forward to our reunion concert," he said.

At last, a guidebook for Filipino workers in Hong Kong

By Isabel Escoda
Contributor

IT'S A GIVEN THAT THE GLOBALization of labor has produced the proliferation of migrant workers around the world. In the Western hemisphere it's mainly the Mexicans and other Latinos who head for the US. Europe is the magnet that attracts Middle Easterners and Africans. In Asia, destinations like Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and Japan are the lures for job-seeking Filipinos, Indonesians, Sri Lankans, Thais, Nepalis and Indians.

The need to survive has produced these waves of migrants. The movements of have-nots towards the haves are inevitable, as impoverished societies offer their labor, talents and even their bodies. Such a phenomenon invariably produces the exploiters who take advantage of destitute and demoralized persons. Hence the never-ending reports of cases of injustice and abuse of migrant workers worldwide—whether they be in farms, factories, sweatshops or households.

In Hong Kong, as in Singapore, migrant workers have long been treated as second class citizens. This has brought out the inherent fatalism among Filipinos who frequently use the expression "*Magtiis na lang*" (just bear it) whenever they speak of overwork, underpay, intimidation and abuse in their daily working lives. It points to the irony of the fact that the Chinese employers themselves sprang from forebears who were refugees and may often have belonged to the servant class in the mainland.

Help for helpers

Among the activist groups in the territory who go to the assistance of the migrant workers, one finds several Westerners who have spoken up and condemned the violations against the workers' human rights.

One of these outfits is called "Helpers for the Domestic Helpers" (HDH) which was organized some years ago by a British lawyer married to a Filipina. Then there are the Christian groups funded by American and European churches, foremost among these is the Mission for Filipino Migrant Workers whose staff is composed of Filipinos. And there are the other organizations, some of them left-leaning, which organize protests and demonstrations on behalf of the workers.

Know your rights

Now American law professor Jim Rice, who teaches at a Hong Kong university, has written a book that deals with the duties and rights, not just of the migrant workers, but also of the employers. His book, "Take Your Rights Seriously," is written in clear, concise language that offers a wealth of information about regulations, conditions and especially advice for situations often encountered by the domestics.

Rice also takes on the Hong Kong Government for its laissez-faire attitude towards the foreign workers in their midst, often turning a blind eye to rampant violations of the labor regulations. The labor contract for domestics stipulates a minimum wage, but countless employers underpay their help (some making their help sign receipts saying they are receiving the full pay). A proper food allowance is also required, but the domestics often have to shell out their own money for their food (particularly those who find they are expected to eat only their employers' leftovers): Clothes for the winter are not always provided, nor electric fans for the cell-like rooms in cramped servants' quarters (it's a lucky woman who is given air-conditioning to cope with Hong Kong's scorching summers; some lucky ones are those made to sleep with infants and children who use air-conditioning).

Underpaid, overworked

Rest periods during the day, also mentioned in the labor contract, are often neglected when the maids are made to work 12-18 hours a day. Reports are rife of maids (who need to rise at the crack of dawn to wash their employers' cars and walk their dogs) having to stay up late to serve mah-jong playing family members till past midnight.

In his book, Rice discusses the migrant workers' myriad problems and offers ways to deal with them. He has wise advice for those facing situations like overwork, intimidation and racist abuse. And he warns against the parties who prey on job seekers and who fleece the workers seeking loans. He cautions: "In dealings with people with power to affect your life (employment agencies, loan companies, government officials and employers), your own best interests are very different from theirs ... Get as much information as possible and ... Use (it) to your greatest advantage. Employment agencies and loan companies want your money and they want as much of it from as many migrant workers ... What employers want is to get as much work as they possibly can for as little money as possible. That's why they hire workers from countries poorer than Hong Kong (because those) labor costs are considerably cheaper than local workers."

Rice also highlights the fact of the Hong Kong government's inherent racism towards the migrant workers. This is shown by the fact that they are not given the privilege (as other foreigners are) of obtaining residency after seven years' stay in the territory.

Through the efforts of an American businesswoman who underwrote the book's publication and a British PR man who is handling its promotion, the book has just come out. The cover picture was taken by a Filipina photographer whose graphic designer husband handled the book design. A Tagalog translation is being planned, as well as one in Bahasa.

Through this book, the hope is that the Hong Kong government will take heed of the injustices being perpetuated in their territory which they have labeled "Asia's World City," and that they'll do the right thing. Ideally, "Take Your Rights Seriously" should be disseminated throughout other parts of the world where migrant workers toil.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

EU offers larger Lebanon force

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM—AFTER A WEEK OF CONFUSION and missteps, Europe pledged to add up to 6,900 troops to the UN peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon, officials said at an emergency meeting of European Union foreign ministers here on Friday.

But the officials cautioned that the force would not be used to disarm Hezbollah. That job, if it is done at all, will be left to the Lebanese government and army.

The largest contribution to the expanded force came from Italy, which confirmed that it would contribute 3,000 troops and was asked by Secretary General Kofi Annan to succeed France in command of the force in February. The force seemed unlikely to reach the 15,000-troop level authorized under UN Resolution 1701, which ended the fighting in Lebanon.

Annan, who attended the emergency session of EU foreign ministers here, said he hoped several thousand of the additional troops would deploy "within the next few days, not the next few weeks," and that the total force would arrive in three waves extending over several months.

Annan also said agreement was reached on new rules of engagement that authorize the peacekeepers to use deadly force against those preventing them from doing their job. He added, however, that disarming Hezbollah—a central goal of two UN resolutions on Lebanon—"is not going to be done by force."

He said he would visit Iran, Syria, Lebanon, Israel and the Palestinian territories next week and then make recommendations to the Security Council on ways to resolve the political situation that led to the crisis.

Javier Solana, the European Union's foreign policy chief, called on Israel to lift its air and sea blockade of Lebanon to ease tensions and to allow reconstruction to go forward.

The French are contributing the second most troops after Italy, though it is not entirely clear how many. Chirac said Thursday that France would send a total of 2,000 troops. But the French foreign minister, Philippe Douste-Blazy, told the meeting on Friday that France would contribute 2,000 in addition to those already on the ground in Lebanon. Spain promised a battalion of 1,000 to 1,200 troops and Poland, which already has some soldiers in UNIFIL, said it would add 500 soldiers now and possibly more later, depending on the force's needs.

Belgium said that it would send 300 soldiers and that the number could rise to 400. Finland pledged 250 soldiers.

Germany, Sweden, Greece, the Netherlands and Denmark all offered ships and other naval assets. Britain said it would send surveillance aircraft, in addition to a navy frigate. Annan said the United Nations had received offers of troops from countries outside Europe as well, including Malaysia, Indonesia and Bangladesh, and that he was consulting with Turkey about whether it would contribute.

Russia was reported to be considering sending troops to Lebanon, but Defense Minister Sergei B. Ivanov said no decision had been made. *New York Times*

LUCIO Rendon is reunited with his mother and family members Aug. 25 after spending months with two others lost in the Pacific. REUTERS

Court drops corruption case against Suharto

JAKARTA—AN INDONESIAN APpeals court has upheld a ruling by the Attorney General's office to drop a corruption case against former President Suharto because of his poor health, a court official said on Thursday.

A lower court in June ruled in favor of a lawsuit by activists that prosecutors should press on with charges against Suharto, who is accused of graft during his 32-year rule.

"The panel of judges examining the case ruled that the decision to drop the Suharto case was legally valid," said Yohannes Suhadi, a spokesperson for the South Jakarta district court, which overturned the June ruling.

"One of the considerations is that former President Suharto is suffering from non-fluent aphasia, which prevents him from communicating orally and in writing," he said.

He said activists wishing to challenge the ruling can file an appeal to the Supreme Court.

Three non-government organizations had asked the lower court to reverse Attorney General Abdul Rahman Saleh's decision in May to drop graft charges against Suharto.

When the attorney general made his decision, Suharto was in hospital undergoing a series of operations related to internal bleeding.

He has since returned home.

Suharto, 85, has had a variety of health problems and has been hospitalized several times since he lost power in 1998.

Courts have ruled in the past that he was not in fit condition to stand trial.

The graft charges relate to allegations of misuse of funds by seven charity groups once headed by Suharto, although his critics say the amounts involved are a small part of billions of dollars misspent or improperly funneled to his family and associates during his rule. *Reuters*

FIND THE VENDORS IF YOU CAN
Derek Rhude, left, and Richard Middleton, both 14, man a balloon stand at the Edmonton International Fringe Theatre Festival in Edmonton, Alta., Aug. 25. AP

After 9 months adrift at sea, survivors greeted as folk heroes

SAN BLAS, MEXICO—THREE FISHERMEN who said they survived months adrift at sea in a 29-foot boat returned home on Friday to Mexico, where some greeted them as folk heroes, some hailed them as a testament to the power of faith and others cast a skeptical eye on their epic story of seamanship and survival.

In Mexico City, the three thin but healthy-looking men stepped off a plane from Los Angeles on Friday morning and spoke to reporters before taking flights to their hometowns in three coastal states. They faced a barrage of questions about the veracity of their story and, when asked, said they would take lie-detector tests to prove it.

Salvador Ordonez, Jesus Vidana and Lucio Rendon said they were hired for an ill-fated, shark fishing expedition that left this fishing village on Oct. 28, 2005. They said they soon lost their heavy shark-fishing tackle and ran out of fuel trying to find it. Winds pushed them out to sea, where a current caught them and carried them nearly 5,000 miles west.

Along the way, they said, the owner of the boat, whom they knew only as Juan David, and another fisherman, called "El Farsero," died of starvation and were thrown overboard. The three survivors stayed alive catching and eating raw fish and seabirds. They weathered storms, and staved off dying of thirst by collecting rainwater, they said.

A Taiwanese fishing boat spotted the boat Aug. 9 and rescued the men near the Marshall Islands, nine months and nine days after they left shore. That makes their feat of survival one of the longest on record.

Ordonez, 37, said he worried at the start of the trip because the boat's owner had not laid in enough provisions for the usual shark-fishing trip, which lasts from three days to a week.

Once disaster struck and the men found themselves being sucked out into the Pacific Ocean, they turned to what they know best: fishing. Having some knives and other equipment aboard, they fashioned hooks out of engine parts and lines from cables.

The three survivors learned to eat raw fish and birds, and Ordonez drank fish blood. But the two other men could not digest the food, they said, and began vomiting blood. The owner died one night in January; the second man died a month later.

For many here, the men have become national symbols of fortitude. *New York Times*

College student gets dynamite onto plane

HOUSTON, TEXAS—A COLLEGE STUdent has been arrested after carrying a stick of dynamite into the United States on board an airline from Argentina in the most serious of several security alerts to rattle jittery airlines on the same day.

Howard McFarland Fish, 21, was arrested Friday after explosives residue was detected on him while he passed through customs at Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport and a security dog singled out his luggage for inspection, revealing the dynamite and other explosive devices.

The dynamite discovery sparked one of several alerts stopping airline flights Friday just two weeks after security was ramped up in the wake of a thwarted plot in Britain to blow up US-bound airliners with explosives smuggled in drinks containers.

An American Airlines jet flying from Manchester, England to Chicago was diverted to Bangor, Maine after US authorities learned of an unspecified threat to the aircraft, the FBI said.

And a third jet operated by US Airways and bound for Charlotte, North Carolina out of Phoenix, Arizona was diverted to Oklahoma City after an unruly passenger was subdued, Transportation Security Administration sources said.

There were no confirmations of terrorist plots or other planned attacks, but the incidents underscored the general nervousness in the travel industry.

According to a US Immigration and Customs Enforcement statement late Friday, the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force determined that Fish's carrying explosives into the country was not intended as a terrorist attacks.

But he was taken into custody anyway. "We are not certain of his motives, but carrying an explosive device onto an aircraft is a violation of law," FBI Agent Shauna Dunlap said. *AFP*

NATIONAL HERITAGE ON FIRE
A woman walks past the 19th-century Trinity Cathedral with fire raging and the central dome collapsed in St. Petersburg, Russia, Aug. 25. AP

WORLDBRIEFS

S. Korea certain North has atom bombs

SEOUL—South Korea is certain North Korea has nuclear weapons and Seoul's best estimate is Pyongyang has produced one or two bombs, its defense minister said on Friday, amid reports that the North may be preparing a nuclear test. Another senior official said South Korea and China had agreed to cooperate in preventing the North from conducting a test, which would pose a grave situation in the region. Defense Minister Yoon Kwang-ung said he believed the North had one or two nuclear weapons, but his remarks in parliament on Friday were among the strongest yet on the North's possession of atomic bombs. "It is estimated that the North has one or two," Yoon told a parliamentary hearing when asked about the North's nuclear arsenal. When asked if the South has no doubt about the North's possession of a nuclear weapon, Yoon said: "That's correct." Yoon also said there was not enough evidence at present to conclude the North is about to conduct its first nuclear weapons test. *Reuters*

High oil prices unjustified–Saudi king

RIYADH—Saudi King Abdullah was quoted on Saturday as saying high oil prices were unjustified because global markets were well supplied. The king also told Asharq al-Awsat newspaper in an interview that Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, wanted moderate oil prices, despite the benefits it would reap from higher prices. "The kingdom's oil policy is based on moderate prices and despite the benefits higher oil prices bring to us, we call for moderation in oil prices," the king told the Saudi-owned newspaper. "Oil production is plentiful, so I am puzzled by the fluctuations in the market and the unjustified high oil prices," he added. US crude settled 15 cents higher at $72.51 a barrel. London Brent rose 2 cents to $72.70. *Reuters*

Ex-Ukraine leader draws 9 years

SAN FRANCISCO—Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko was sentenced to nine years in prison and fined $10 million in a US court on Friday after being convicted in 2004 of extortion and money laundering. Lazarenko, 53, became a multimillionaire while in power during the chaotic early post-Soviet days of the 1990s. He is the first foreign leader to be sentenced in a US court since Panamanian leader Manuel Norlega in 1992 *Reuters*

Russia rules out UN sanctions on Iran

MOSCOW—RUSSIA REJECTED talk for now of sanctions against Iran and France warned on Friday against conflict with Tehran, raising doubts whether it will face swift penalties if nuclear work is not halted by an Aug. 31 deadline.

Responding to an offer of economic incentives to stop enriching uranium, Iran hinted to six world powers on Tuesday it could rein in its program as a result of talks to implement the package—but not as a precondition as they demand.

The reply seemed tailored to crack the brittle united front of four Western powers and Russia and China who agreed the UN deadline. The West sees Iran's nuclear drive as a looming threat to peace. Russia and China, key trade partners of Iran, do not.

"I know of no instances in world practice and previous experience in which sanctions have achieved their aim and proved effective," Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov told reporters during a trip to Russia's far east.

"Moreover, I believe that the question is not so serious at the moment for the UN Security Council or the group of six to consider any introduction of sanctions. Russia stands for further political and diplomatic efforts to settle the issue." Ivanov is seen as close to President Vladimir Putin.

Washington has said the six powers will move quickly to adopt sanctions if Iran disregards the deadline. Britain, Germany and France have been less conclusive in public.

Russia and China, both trade partners of Iran, have been unwilling and could veto sanctions in the Council.

Underlining the confusion, EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said he expected new talks in days with Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani "to get clarification (on Iran's response) and see how we can move the process forward." *Reuters*

WHAT'S INSIDE

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SPORTS Sunday

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres** **E-mail:** pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Falcons claw Maroons, lift fading hopes

By Jasmine W. Payo

KEN BONO PROVED UNSTOPPABLE AS THE Adamson Falcons rolled to a 76-68 victory over the University of the Philippines Maroons to claim a share of third place in the UAAP men's basketball tournament yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

GAMES TODAY
(Philsports Arena)
2 p.m.—NU vs FEU (Srs)
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs UST (Srs)

The massive 6-foot-5 Bono posted a season-best 33 points and 12 rebounds to keep the Falcons' semifinal hopes alive.

The Falcons joined the Santo Tomas Tigers at 4-5, while the Maroons remained in the cellar at 2-7.

Bono pushed the Falcons ahead to stay at 72-65 after the Maroons, starring Marvin Cruz and Nestor David, moved within 63-66 at the 3:22 mark.

Meanwhile, the Ateneo Eagles will shoot for a team record nine straight wins against the UST Tigers at 4 p.m. today at the Philsports Arena.

Assured of a twice-to-beat advantage in the semifinals, the Eagles are still expecting tough games ahead.

"Teams are starting to spot our weaknesses," said Ateneo coach Norman Black.

Ateneo's 2002 team set an eight-game winning record during its title run.

Badly beaten in their first encounter, the Tigers vow to do better than their embarrassing 114-78 loss against the Eagles.

"Teams play differently in the second round and I've seen it in my players," said UST coach Pido Jarencio. "The players have adjusted (from the absence of key players). The others are starting to deliver."

Another upset

The Tigers are hoping for another upset after stunning the Far Eastern Tamaraws, 77-75, last Thursday.

"We're not talking about the Final Four before," noted Jarencio. "Now that's our target, we're 2-1 in the second round."

The defending champion Tamaraws and the National Bulldogs will also try to boost their Final Four chances when they collide earlier at 2 p.m.

Hanging at fifth place with a 4-6 card, the Tamaraws dropped out of contention for the twice-to-beat bonus in the semifinals.

The University of the East Warriors have also secured the second Final Four seat with a 7-2 record.

In yesterday's junior play, the Ateneo Eaglets cruised to an 87-64 decision over the FEU Baby Tamaraws for their 10th straight win.

The second-running Baby Tamaraws settled at 8-2, while the Junior Maroons and Baby Falcons shared third place at 6-4 after beating their respective foes.

UP downed the UE Pages, 91-81, while Adamson routed the NU Bullpups, 109-72.

The scores:

Third Game (Jrs)

ATENEO 87—M. Gamboa 19, Golla 15, Katipunan 13, Austria 13, Dumrique 9, Balmaceda 5, Valera 4, K. Gamboa 4, Rivera 3, Enriquez 2, Tiongson 0, Gonzaga 0, Esquievel 0, Aportadera 0.

FEU 64—Rosales 15, Rivera 11, Knuttel 11, Lopez 8, Argamino 4, Banal 4, Rocha 4, Gadia 3, J. Paulino 2, Paguia 2, Maloles 0, A. Paulino 0.

Quarters: 24-12, 50-21, 67-42, 87-64

Fourth Game (Srs)

ADAMSON 76—Bono 33, Canuday 10, Hugnatan 9, Cabahug 8, Basilio 5, Gonzalgo 4, Yong 3, Santos 2, Poloyapoy 2, Pacheco 0, Agustin 0.

UP 68—Serios 15, David 14, Cruz 12, De Asis 8, Sison 7, Reyes 6, Sorongon 4, Cacha 2, Co 0, Braganza 0, Epres 0.

Quarters: 21-16, 35-34, 54-50, 76-68

UP's Marvin Cruz drives against Adamson's Leo Canuday in their game yesterday. RYAN LIM

Juvic still a shot off in Brunei

JUVIC PAGUNSAN WILL ALWAYS HAVE PLEASANT MEMORIES OF the 17th hole of the Empire Hotel & Country Club course in Bandar Seri Begawan.

The rising Filipino star birdied the par 4 17th for the third straight day then added another on the final hole yesterday for a four-under-par 67 that kept him tantalizingly close to a breakthrough win in the Asian Golf Tour.

PAGUNSAN

Counting his earlier rounds of 66 and 68, the 27-year-old Pagunsan totaled 201 after 54 holes, just a stroke off Australian co-leaders Terry Pilkadaris (64) and David Gleeson (65) who were at 200 after three rounds of the Brunei Open.

"It (closing birdies) worked out well for me and I am feeling good about my game," said Pagunsan, the 2005 Southeast Asian Games individual titlist. "I hope to continue my performance as I am determined to finish strongly tomorrow."

The slim but long-hitting Pagunsan also birdied holes 2, 4 and 6 to go out with a 32, only to be stymied by a bogey 4 on No. 16.

Pagunsan, who turned pro early this year after easily hurdling the Asian Tour qualifying, admitted that overtaking the Aussies and fending off Chinese Taipei's Wang Ter-chang won't be easy.

The 44-year-old Wang, owner of three Asian Tour titles who led after the second round, riddled the back nine with six birdies en route to a 64 that catapulted him to a 202 total. He was tied with American Jason Knutzon who shot a 66.

Another Filipino, Antonio Lascuna, gained ground with his second straight 69 for a 208 total, five shots off the pace in a tie with nine others.

Artemio Murakami, the third and last Filipino qualifier, slumped to a 213 after a 73.

Pilkadaris, 32, is currently ranked 14th on the Asian Tour's UBS order of Merit, while Gleeson is seeking a follow-up to his conquest of the 2002 Volvo China Open.

Miñoza 2 strokes behind

FRANKIE MIÑOZA IS MAKING YET another solid crack at ending a long title drought.

Miñoza, 46, birdied three of the last five holes for a five-under-par 66 yesterday to stay just two shots off solo leader Lee Dong-hwan of Korea after three rounds of the 100 million yen (about P44 million) Under Armour KBC Augusta at the Keya Golf Club in Fukuoka, Japan.

Miñoza carded three birdies on each nine against a lone bogey on the eighth as he posted a 54-hole total of 203 for a share of sixth place with Shiegamasa Higaki of Japan to remain in the running for the 20 million yen (about P8.8 million) champion's prize.

Lee fired a 65 for a 201, just a shot ahead of Japanese Nobuhiro Masuda (63), Taichi Teshima (65), Tetsuji Hiratsuka (69) and Mitsuhiro Tateyama (70).

Miñoza is coming off his best showing so far this season of 11th place at the Sun Chlorella Classic two weeks ago, which lifted him to 44th in the money list. The last of his six victories on the Japan Tour came in the 2001 Fujisankei Classic. He regained his card this year after losing it following a lackluster 2004 season. *Jong Arcano*

Pinoys drub Jordanians by 40 points

By June Navarro

BRUNEI—SAN MIGUEL-RP WALLOPED an overmatched team made up of school boys from Jordan last night, 107-67, to warm up perfectly for a semifinal clash with the Saudi Arabia All-Stars in the 6th Shell Rimula Brunei Cup.

Renren Ritualo came out smoking by nailing four early three-pointers, while Asi Taulava bullied the entire frontline of the Jordan All-Stars right from the opening tip as the Filipinos swept the eliminations with a 5-0 card.

The defending champion Filipinos clash with the Saudis, while the SK Knights of Korea battle the Darwin All-Stars of Australia today for places in the title match.

Barangay Ginebra lost its final four games and dropped out of contention on Friday. Jordan was the other team eliminated.

"We haven't really played our best yet," said RP head coach Chot Reyes. "We struggled against Ginebra and the other teams. Now we played a team which was overmatched. We should come up with our A-game in the semifinals to prepare us for the finals."

Abdullah Abu Qura and Fadel Al-Najjar helped the Jordanians put up a semblance of a fight, 28-22, but Wesley Gonzales, Danny Seigle and Olsen Racela started connecting from afar as the Filipinos pulled away.

When Dorian Peña, Mick Pennisi and Nino Canaleta joined the scoring onslaught, it became clear that it would be a blowout win for the Filipinos.

Pennisi's three-pointers, Peña's aggressiveness in the paint and dunks by Canaleta and Seigle had the San Miguel-RP Team surging to a 62-35 bubble at the half.

From there, the Filipinos strolled along as Ritualo and Gonzales continued hitting from the outside while Canaleta provided several airborne acts, including a windmill slam to the delight of the predominantly Filipino crowd employed as overseas workers here.

The Philippines led by 47 points at one stage, 98-51.

The scores:

SAN MIGUEL-RP 107—Ritualo 23, Pena 15, Gonzales 12, Pennisi 11, Taulava 11, Canaleta 9, Seigle 9, Miranda 4, Hontiveros 4, Telan 4, Racela 3, Allado 2.

JORDAN 67—Qura 20, Jamal 16, Al-Najjar 14, Tkidek 5, Alzubi 4, Hamdan 4, Alawadi 1, Aburashed 0, Nassar 0, Maf 0, Nizar 0.

Quarters: 28-22, 62-35, 89-48, 107-67

RITUALO

Amacu, STI whip rivals to gain on SSC-Cavite

COMPUTER SCHOOL RIVALS AMACU and STI scored pivotal victories yesterday to crowd the leader-board at the start of the second round of the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities men's basketball at the UM Gym.

AMACU downed last year's runner-up Centro Escolar, 88-72, while STI crushed five-time defending champion University of Manila, 71-59, to register their eighth victories for identical 8-2 records.

They are just half a game behind idle leader San Sebastian-Cavite which remained on top of the six-team second round with an 8-1 slate.

The Titans employed a balanced attack in subduing the Scorpions with Robie Zablan and Bong Abac fired 17 and 16 points, respectively.

Arnold Galang unloaded 14 markers, while Chito Jaime chipped in 12 as Amacu handed CEU's fifth loss in 10 games.

Dexter Micutuan stood at the forefront of the Olympians' assault firing 18 points, while point guard Haddi Porto added 14 points aside from moving STI's vaunted fastbreak game along.

Jojo Belano and John Macalma each had 10 points for STI, which had to endure a late third-quarter rally by the Hawks.

Pol Santiago, Frank Bonus and Onofre Napiza finished with 12 points each for the Hawks, once the most dominant team in the league, who fell to 5-5.

FIRST GAME (srs)

AMACU 88—Zablan 17, Abac 16, Galang 14, Jaime 12, Galvez 10, Suraez 8, Mercado 5, Vergara 2, Gabica 2, Dela Pena 2, Edralin 0, Padilla 0.

CEU 72—Macasaet 15, Magno 14, Manajero 11, Gatdula 9, Camacho 8, Franco 6, Salamat 4, Lalota 3, Carillo 2, Villamayor 0, Dayag 0.

Quarters: 30-13, 42-33, 63-48, 88-72.

SECOND GAME (srs)

STI 71 —Micutuan 18, Porto 14, Belano 10, Macalma 10, Junatas 9, Cabangon 4, Lunar 2, Dia 2, Legaspi 0, San Luis 0.

UM 59—Santiago 12, Bonus 12, Napiza 12, Gobis 10, Delostrino 7, Maliksi 2, Hupana 2, Ocampo 2, Estacio 0, Gulmpatan 0, Facun 0, Operana 0.

Quarters: 15-15, 28-26, 46-48, 71-59.

Grand nephew of RP Olympic swim hero makes Doha Asiad

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE SWIMMING HAS found another gem in the rough overseas.

Sixteen-year-old Daniel Coakley, grand nephew of Filipino Olympic swim hero Teofilo Yldefonso, recently made it to the national team competing in the Doha Asian Games this December according to Philippine Amateur Swimming Association president Mark Joseph yesterday.

Coakley, son of an Ilocana mother and a Hawaiian swim-coach father, registered the 10th fastest time in the on-going Fina World Youth Championships in Rio de Janeiro for the 50-meter freestyle yesterday.

His time of 23.99 seconds in the semifinals, said Joseph, was good enough to put him in place of RP team mainstay Ronald Guiriba, who is on a "recovery break from swimming" to focus on his studies.

Born and raised in Kapalua, Hawaii, Coakley has won honors in age-group meets like the US Pacific and West Coast Conference.

He started competitive swimming at the age of 10 and underwent "unorthodox training" to maintain his power and speed including extreme breath holding and daily spear fishing, reported Joseph.

Coakley joins the Asiad swim team to be spearheaded by US-based Miguel Molina and Miguel Mendoza.

Yldefonso is considered the country's finest Olympic swimmer after winning back-to-back bronze medals in the 1928 Amsterdam and 1932 Los Angeles Games in the 200-meter breaststroke.

Salvador gains share of lead in Italy tourney

FILIPINO FIDE MASTER ROLAND SALVAdor trounced local bet Axel Rombaldoni in the seventh round on Friday to share the lead with seven others in the 2006 International Chess Tournament in Bratto, Italy.

Handling black, the Milan-based Salvador prevailed after 38 moves of a Sicilian Pelikan encounter to climb to 5.5 points and inch closer toward becoming a full-fledged Grandmaster.

The 24-year-old former Philippine Navy standout needs only one more GM result to join the elite group of Mark Paragua, Eugene Torre, Rogelio Antonio Jr., Nelson Mariano II, Buenaventura Villamayor and the late Rosendo Balinas.

According to the FIDE handbook, an aspiring player aiming to earn a GM result needs to play at least two GMs coming from different federations or countries with a minimum 5.5 or 6.0 points score, depending on the average rating of his opponents.

In the case of Salvador, he will face in the eighth and penultimate round co-leader GM Erald Dervishi of Albania and hope that his final round opponent will also be a GM.

Other 5.5 pointers were GM Erald Dervishi (Albania), GM Dimitri Komarov (Ukraine), GM Atila Grozpeter (Hungrary), GM Miso Cebalo (Croatia), GM Milan Drasko (Serbia and Montenegro), IM Herman Grooten (Netherlands) and FM Luca Shytaj (Italy).

Meanwhile, all the top board encounters in the seventh round ended in draws. Dervishi against GM Komarov, Cebalo against Grozpeter, top seed Russian GM Vladimir Epishin against Pierluigi Piscopo, Giulo Burgo against Hungrarian GM Gyula Sax and Italian GM Michele Godena against Roberto Mogranzini.

Drasko nipped Italian FM Flavio Guido in 40 moves of a Nimzo-Indian Defense to catch up with the leaders. *NM Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

EFREN "Bata" Reyes

FRANCISCO "Django" Bustamante

Bata, Django test mettle of Czechs

Quarterfinal Round Matchups:
No. 1 Philippines vs Czech Republic; No. 5 Taiwan vs No. 4 Germany; No. 3 US vs Hong Kong; No. 10 Italy vs Vietnam

THE UNHERALDED CZECH REPUBlic squad claimed yet another big victim in eighth-ranked Canada, 9-8, Friday night, to advance against topseed Philippines in the quarterfinals of the PartyPoker.com World Cup of Pool at the Newport Centre in Newport, South Wales in Britain.

Roman Hybler and Michal Gavenciak blew a 7-4 lead and needed to win the final two racks to turn back the Canadian duo of Luc Salvas and Tyler Edey and earn a final eight collision against Filipinos Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante.

Seeded first in this inaugural tournament among 32 teams from 31 countries, Reyes and Bustamante gained a quarterfinal slot on Thursday after a 9-5 rout of Ibrahim Bin Amir and Patrick Ooi Fook Yuen of Malaysia.

The United States, spearheaded by three-time world champion Earl Strickland, Germany and Taiwan also advanced to the quarterfinals along with Italy.

Strickland and former US Open winner Rodney Morris ripped Daryl Peach and Steve Davis of England B, 9-3, while former world champ Oliver Ortmann and Thomas Engert of Germany clobbered David Alcaide and Rafael Guzman of Spain, 9-5.

The Americans are favored to extend their winning run after drawing Hong Kong in the next round. Hong Kong (Lee Chenman-Kong Man-Ho) advanced by turning back Russia (Konstantin Stepanov-Konstantin Zolotilov), 9-8.

Taiwanese Yang Ching-shun and Wang Hung-hsiang downed Satoshi Kawabata and Masaki Tanaka of Japan, 9-4, and Italians Angelo Millauro and former world trickshot winner Fabio Petroni crushed former world champion Mika Immonen and Marcus Juva of Finland, 9-2. Marlon Bernardino, contributor

Dimakiling obtains first GM result

FOUR FILIPINO WOODPUSHERS LED by International Master Oliver Dimakiling earned title norms after the ninth round of the Dato Arthur Tan 3rd Malaysian Open at the Citi Tel Mid Valley Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Dimakiling earned his first grandmaster result after posting a draw versus Bangladesh GM Ziaur Rahman and sharing top spot with Vietnamese GM Nguyen Anh Dung at 7.0 points.

Fide Master Wesley So, on the other hand, becomes an IM-elect after getting his 3rd IM result. So, who also earned IM results in tournaments in Dubai and San Marino, only needs to raise his Elo rating of 2320 to 2400 to become a full-fledged IM.

Two-time Philippine Junior champion John Paul Gomez and Ino Sadorra also earned IM norms.

So and Gomez shared third place with Rahman, Vietnamese GM Dao Thien Hai and NM Darwin Laylo at 6.5 points.

So and Dao split the point on board two.

Gomez, who stunned GM Mark Paragua in the seventh round, beat Bangladesh GM Niaz Murshed.

Sadorra scored 6.0 points, the same output as Indon IM Tirto, Indon GM Susanto Megaranto, Indian WGM Easha Karavade and Armenian IM Ashot Nadanian.

In the next round, Laylo will face Anh Dung, while Dimakiling will take on Gomez. Dao will tackle Rahman, while Wynn will tackle So.

Paragua was at 5.5 points with Anatoli, Filipino IMs Richard Bitoon and Ronald Dableo, Vietnamese GM Nguyen Troc Song, Chinese GM Yu Shaoteng, Indon IM Taufik Halay and Indian Akshayraj Kore. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

SPORTSWATCH

5th Avenue Telecom tops Metro Open

5TH AVENUE TELECOM NIPPED CKP168, 86-85, CAPTURE THE TITLE IN THE 2006 Metro Open basketball tournament at the Metro gym in Mandaluyong City. Al Vergara and Mark Yee provided the clutch baskets for the Mandaluyong-based team. Vergara, a 5-foot-9 mainstay of Montana Pawnshop in the PBL, hit one of his two free throws with six seconds left to shatter the game's last deadlock at 85. Yee and Ronnie Zagala scored 17 points apiece, while Larry Rodriguez added 12 points and 10 rebounds for the Telecoms. Alwyn Espiritu, Erick dela Cuesta and Melvin Mamaclay also played well for 5th Avenue, which led 32-26 at halftime. Ricky Calimag led CKP with 20 points, followed by Paeng Santos with 16 and Henry Fernandez with 14. Bong Pineda called the shots for 5th Avenue together with manager Mike Dullas and consultant Johnny Cutaran. Metro Basketball Tournament president Nilo Fernandez awarded the trophies to the champions.

Sports fans troop to Proline

PROLINE SPORTS CENTER, ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S LEADING PROVIDER OF sports equipment, has opened a new store for basketball, golf, badminton and other sport enthusiasts at the SM Mall of Asia. Joven Babaan said the Proline Mall of Asia is stocked up with the latest Spalding and NBA licensed equipment with a wide range of choices and at competitive prices. Among the products sold in the store are the Spalding backboard systems, such as the NBA Platinum with Helix Lift System, NBA Gold with ExactaHeight Lift System, NBA Team Logo No Tools Portable System, the One-on-One for kids starting to learn the game, NBA Silver with Ground Activated Ratchet Lift System and the Youth Portable System for junior. Also offered are Spalding basketball models such as the Infusion series, Helix and Heat Seeker. The Proline Mall of Asia is the 14th branch of Proline Sports Center which has been in the business for over 30 years.

Bernis registers longest drive

JUN BERNIS OF CANLUBANG GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB RECORDED THE longest drive yet after three legs of the Dunlop Longest Drive Challenge when he registered 301 yards in his first try during the qualifying held last week at the Canlubang and Country Club. His other drives were 298 and 297. Bernis advanced to the grand finals together with Aki Kasamatsu, who topped the women's division with 194 yards, Bing Bunye, who posted 253 in the seniors 50 years and above, and Marco Olives, who ruled the juniors 17 years and below with 250 yards. The other qualifying rounds will be held at the Orchard, Manila Southwoods and Villamor while the grand finals will be at Wack Wack on Sept. 12 with three-time world long drive champion Sean Fister, whose long drive personal best is 515 yards, will award the trophies to the winners.

Two fights on Fistorama today

FISTORAMA FEATURES THIS AFTERNOON TWO BOUTS IN DIFFERENT DIVIsions. Super featherweights James Balagon and Jan Ricasio square off in the four-round curtain raiser while minimum weight Jose Ricaforte battles Jessie Boy Rona in the six-round event. Fistorama is shown twice weekly through ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel/Pinoy Central TV. It will also be aired at 3:30 p.m. today on RPN-9. Golf Power Plus airs at 3 p.m. featuring the elimination match between teams 3 and 5 from College of Saint Benilde in the PCSO Women's Inter-Collegiate Beach Volleyball Challenge.

Roligon derby slated Sept. 2

THE NUMBER OF CONFIRMED ENTRIES CONTINUE TO BUILD UP AS THE RAY Showdown 6-stag derby, a three-day spectacle at Roligon Mega Cockpit, draws nearer. Slated on Sept. 2, 5 and 7, the event will be hosted by Danny Ty and lawyer Romero Yu with the Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone as sponsors. No less than P1 million in guaranteed prize awaits the winners. Screening and wingbanding will be held today at Roligon office from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Stags with Showdown wingbands will also be accepted in the Stag Festival 5-stag derby on Sept. 26, 28 and 30. Host Rolly Ligon put up a guaranteed prize of P1.5 million for an entry fee of P8,800. Call 833-1638 and 852-9812 or 0917-8277484.

Big Dome hosts LGBA 5-stag

THE LUZON GAMECOCK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (LGBA) 5-STAG DERBY SEries starts on Tuesday and Thursday at the Araneta Coliseum. With more than 150 fights lined up, action starts at 10 a.m. on Tuesday. Another 150 fight-program will be staged Thursday in the event supported by Thunderbird, Lakpue, Asvet, Purina, B-Meg Derby Ace and Gran Matador. Participants must submit entries on Aug. 28 and 30 at the Araneta green gate, from 2-9 p.m. and may call 911-3101 and 911-2928. As part of the LGBA series, 5-stag events will be held at Malvar Sports Complex (Sept. 5) and Bacolor Cockpit Arena (Sept. 8). Submit entries at the LGBA office: 926-7808, 924-5072, 924-5051 loc 128. Last year, Sonny Lagon of Laguna and Eugene Tan of Bulacan shared the LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year title.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—Golden Rhythm (6), Tigerific (3), Sweet luvin 91), Deep Rising (8)
Race 2—Be My Pride (4), ferrarione 960, speed Admiral (5), Bunker Buster (2)
Race 3—She's Coming (9), Golden Music (8), Don Peri Pink (4), Do Re Mi (10)
Race 4—Somos O No Somos/Unleashed (2), Yao Man (1), Speed King (4)
Race 5—Lady Be Gold/Play It Again (3), Magiliw (6), Lovable Trisha (1), Magic Bullet/Brazen Truth (7)
Race 6—Mountain Eagle (1), Nitty Gritty (4), Iron Mic (3), I Don't Dance (7)
Race 7—Special Edition (10), Jet Sutter (3), Mes Monique (1), Rebecca's Magic (7)
Race 8—Capricorn Aria (6), Andee's Whisper (8), Rebound (4), Half medium (1)
Race 9—Pamansanminsan (10), Open Sky (1), Showtime Lady (2), Lucky Punch (7)
Race 10—Democrat/Words of Joy (4), Hok Kee Hok (2), Kimagure (1), China Girl (7)
Race 11—Magpakailanman (8), Sunline (5), Speed Bullet (1), King Anthony 92)
Race 12—Sincerity 93), Hale and Hearty (7), Mesmerize (4), Ginja (2)
Race 13—Royal Rose (8), Top Quest (7), Playing Cool (4), I Remain (1)

Crucial cage meeting up

A CLEARER PICTURE OF PHILIPPINE basketball's future might just be painted today when the warring factions claiming rights as the country's representative appear before the world-governing Fiba.

The Fiba, which has convened in Japan for the ongoing World Championship, is expected to decide as to which of the two groups—the Basketball Association of the Philippines or Pilipinas Basketball—is the legitimate body after each agency makes a 10-minute presentation.

Former senator Joey Lina, the BAP president, left last night while controversial secretary general Graham Lim is already in Japan.

Lina, before his departure, said he was hopeful of the lifting of the Philippine suspension on the strength of the Fiba-Asia Congress resolution calling for the Central Board to lift the suspension.

LINA

"While we are optimistic that the suspension will be lifted, we are praying that the BAP will remain the Fiba member because there is no ground whatsoever to vacate the Philippine membership," said Lina.

Philippine Olympic Committee first vice president Monico Puentevella, in a telephone call from Tokyo, said he would help represent Pilipinas Basketball which the POC recognized as the new cage national sports association after expelling the BAP in June last year.

POC official Ding Tanjuatco, Philippine Basketball Association commissioner Noli Eala and newly elected Pilipinas Basketball president Bernie Atienza will make the presentation for Pilipinas Basketball. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

LA Gear backs UAAP squads

LA GEAR, THE CORPORATE SPONSOR OF the multititled University of Santo Tomas Salinggawi Dance Troupe, recently agreed to back other schools in the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP).

LA Gear, the American brand with sports-inspired fashionable shoes, apparels and accessories, is now also supporting the cheerdance teams of University of the Philippines, Far Eastern University, Ateneo de Manila and University of the East aside from the famed SDT of UST in the UAAP Cheerdance competition set Sept. 10 at the Araneta Coliseum.

"Our brand which has a total of six stores in the country has extended our assistance to the other universities as our commitment to the youth and their active and healthy lifestyle," said Vangie Chua, marketing officer of LA Gear.

War rages as Pacquiao hunts Promoter

COMMENTARY

"The fight racket (boxing) since its rotten beginnings has always been the red light district of sports."
—Jimmy Cannon

By Hermie Rivera

AN UGLY WAR CONTINUES.

We aren't talking here of Manny Pacquiao's impending rumble with Erik Morales in their third 12-round encounter at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas Nov. 18.

It's about the Filipino ring idol's conflict with his handlers who see dollar signs dancing on the boxer's head any time of day or night.

While Manny's latest crop of managers have disappeared, (duck hunting?)—two of his erstwhile promoters are angling for employment possibilities.

And, like all boxing denizens out to strike gold while the "iron is hot," these operators lulled themselves into thinking that they could get away with any type of larceny—forgetting that somewhere in this world are crusaders opposed to all forms of fistic chicanery.

Despite blatant raids on his treasury, Manny will continue to prosper unless he does something incredibly stupid that could set him in a trap by subordinates out to ruin him financially. (One more run around the block James?)

As for his team of peripatetic handlers led by Shelly Finkel, Nick Khan and Keith Davidson—perhaps we can oblige them for an iota of transparency since no one and no one who's outside the loop knows about the service they provided Manny for the $400,000 they took home from his fight with Oscar Larios.

And that doesn't begin to touch the fees they treated themselves to—from the past Morales fights, the Hector Velazquez fight and the mother of all scores—Pacquiao-Morales III.

Since Manny Pacquiao was a bona fide star before Finkel, Khan and Davidson, all three Morales fights were in place with Bob Arum's Top Rank—long before the Filipino superman was even a gleam in the new management's eyes.

So, it is a waste, seeing 20-25 percent of Pacquiao's purses ending up as handler's cuts—not to mention the quarter-million "greenbacks" pocketed by that lucky "sanamagan" who posed as the promoter of the January "tumble at the center."

I gather that some $250,000 changed hands in that iniquitous deal.

Guess who footed the bill?

Keep in mind that this intrepid trio engineered the greatest escape act since Harry Houdini—a flick of the finger and voila! ex-Muhammad Ali bodyguard Murad Muhammad and former business manager Rod Nazario (remember him?) vanished from the Pacman's radar screens.

Out of sight—out of mind—yeah—for the twosome once deemed untouchables at Manny's Eden.

Enter, Bob Arum, who has delivered a multimillion-dollar package with humongous extras thrown in as bonuses for the "main eventers."

But let's pause and avail of the rest period between rounds so I can, if I may, remind everyone of a firewall that's etched in the Ali Reform Boxing Act: barring promoters from having a direct or indirect financial interest in the management of a boxer—the proviso inversely applies to managers.

Manny's clash with Erik in their year-ending "physical debate" as Recah Trinidad asserts in his Pacquiao tome—Pacific Storm—might be the last fight of the Filipino hero prior to his entry into a deadlier combat—politics.

Hello Hizzoner Lito! Welcome Wakee!

Manny Pacquiao is about to become a free agent again and his confidant Rex "Wakee" Salud is moving fast to deliver our icon to Bob Arum who also promotes El Mexicano from Tijuana.

Now Bob, who's coming in as Manny's designated promoter in your Grand Finale?

No more miscues—else—you'll run into the comedic sage that is Yogi Berra, wandering around Ed Wynn's fabulous digs with his immortal de já vu all over again?

Email: http//sports.prepys.com for comments

Pacquiao, Antonio head GCAP roster

THE GENTLEMEN COCKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (GCAP), a prestigious group of cockers with popular members like boxing icon Manny Pacquiao and Patrick Antonio, will present the Season Opener 5-stag derby on Sept. 6 at San Juan Coliseum. Backed by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, GCAP will hold six events this year to determine the 2006 Stagfighter of the Year. Four new members will see action: Mayor Buddy Dunca of Pampanga, Bubot Booc of Masbate, Ricky Valencia and Butch Nuñez of Pasig. Also set to field their new battlecrosses are Gerry Ramos, Benjie Lim, Pol Estrellado, Representatives Butch Pichay and Jing Paras, Rey Briones, R. Pineda, Pepito Ngo, Jet Fernando, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Eric dela Rosa, Boy Royo, Boy de Roca, Louie Cua, Mayor Dennis Pineda and Tony Lasala. Other GCAP derbies are lined up on Sept. 20 and 27; Oct. 11, 18 and 25. Call 725-5369 and 725-6563 for info.

YOUNG SHOOTERS: Philippine National Shooting Association president Arturo Macapagal (fifth from right) hands over to 12-year-old Pocholo Javier Fernandez an air gun before the start of yesterday's Junior Marksmanship Seminar sponsored by Thermax and P.B. Dionisio & Co. Inc. at the PSC Range in Fort Bonifacio. With them are pistol committee chair Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla (yellow T-shirt), PNSA vice president Col. Danilo Gamboa, Nerio Dionisio, whose firm provided the airguns, and director Robi Hermora.

Over the roof and into the lead goes Tiger

AKRON, OHIO—TIGER WOODS in the lead at Firestone is typical.

Woods hitting a 9-iron over the clubhouse roof and escaping with bogey because it was not marked out-of-bounds made the Bridgestone Invitational nothing short of bizarre on Friday.

Woods birdied his first four holes and shot a 6-under 64 to take a one-shot lead over Davis Love III, but what made the second round memorable was a bogey on his final hole that left Woods feeling lucky after a strange sequence of events.

It started from the right rough on No. 9 when Woods hit a 9-iron from 167 yards (153 meters) that jumped out of the grass, soared over the flag and over the grandstands. It hit the concrete path and bounced over a balcony and onto the roof.

From the back of the clubhouse, Summit County deputy sheriff Bill Muncy was sitting in his chair when he noticed a golf ball bouncing around the service area below him and next to someone from the Firestone kitchen staff.

The worker, Josh Stuber, put the ball in the cup holder of a cart and drove off to a villa.

"We were unloading pies on the back of the cart and we saw this golf ball bouncing by," Stuber said. "I said, 'who's throwing golf balls at me?' I went down to the lodge, and the next thing I know, everyone is looking for me. They said, 'You stole Tiger Woods' ball.'"

Stuber said he saw a swoosh and One Platinum written in fine print on the ball.

"I didn't notice the TW," he said.

Woods stood in the fairway for nearly 10 minutes before rules officials arrived and tried to figure out the next step.

It was pure chaos behind the ninth green, especially after Paul McGinley hit his shot from the fairway over the green. Some were shouting that the ball went into an air-conditioning duct. Others said it went over the roof.

Muncy, guarding the back door of the clubhouse, told rules officials what happened. Then, PGA Tour rules official Dillard Pruitt walked in an arc away from the clubhouse until another official, Steve Carman, used a laser to determine his distance. They came up with 97 yards (87 meters).

There was no penalty because the grandstands were in the way. *AP*

Two aces, one round

RENO, NEVADA—YUSAKU MIYAZATO DOESN'T SPEAK MUCH ENGLISH SO HIS caddie helped serve as a translator after the Japanese golfer became the first player to make two holes-in-one in the same round on the PGA Tour. But when it came to a question about his plans for celebrating Friday night, the 26-year-old from Tokyo understood just fine. "Drink much beer. Big party," he said with a wide smile. Miyazato accomplished the unprecedented feat on a pair of par 3s at the Reno-Tahoe Open. He hit a 4-iron on the 230-yard (210-meter), downhill seventh hole and a 7-iron on the 173-yard (158-meter), uphill No. 12 at the Montreux Golf and Country Club's mountain course designed by Jack Nicklaus. It propelled him to a second-round 6-under 66 that left him 9 under for the tournament—six strokes behind the leader Bob Estes. *AP*

Italians get the boot

Ginobili gifts Argentines quarters slot

SAITAMA, JAPAN—ARVYDAS MACIJAUSKAS scored 10 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter and Lithuania survived four missed free throws in the final seconds for a 71-68 victory over Italy on Saturday in the second round of the World Championships.

Italy was even worse from the line than Lithuania (3-3), missing five foul shots in the last 2.1 seconds, three by Gianluca Basile with 0.6 seconds left and his team down three points.

"He is very, very sorry for the last free throws but I have already talked to Basile and he knows during his life he played some very important games for his club and national team," Italy coach Carlo Recalcati said of Basile, a national team member since 1998. "He has made some shots and scored for Italy. That's life.

"Basile knows he is the leader of this team and he will be the captain again and he will help the team win again."

Lithuania will play the winner of the Spain-Serbia and Montenegro game in the quarterfinals on Tuesday.

"It was a tough game and everybody expected it," Lithuania guard Mindaugas Zukauskas said. "We were lucky they missed those free throws. We could have won the game easily, but we created a lot of problems for ourselves."

Macijauskas scored eight straight points, the first six on 3-pointers, in a 12-4 run that gave Lithuania a 66-56 lead with 4:01 to play.

Marco Mordente's four-point play then started Italy (4-2) on an 11-3 run that had the silver medalists from Athens within 69-67 with 1:05 left.

"We spent a lot of energy in a tough game. At the end, the energy spent during the game didn't help us," Mordente said.

Marco Belinelli made one of two from the line with 7.8 seconds left to get Italy within 69-68.

Italy fouled immediately on the inbounds and Linas Kleiza, who plays for the Denver Nuggets, missed two free throws. But Darius Songaila, who signed with the Washington Wizards this summer, grabbed the rebound of the second and was fouled with 4.9 seconds to go.

He missed both, but 6-foot-11 Darius Lavrinovic tipped in the miss of the second to give Lithuania a 71-68 lead with 2.8 seconds to go.

Belinelli was fouled near midcourt with 2.1 seconds left. He missed the first free throw, then missed the second intentionally. The rebound bounced around until it was grabbed by Basile, who unbelievably was fouled by Macijauskas as he threw up a desperation 3-point attempt with less than a second to play.

He missed all three attempts, and the buzzer finally sounded to give Lithuania the victory.

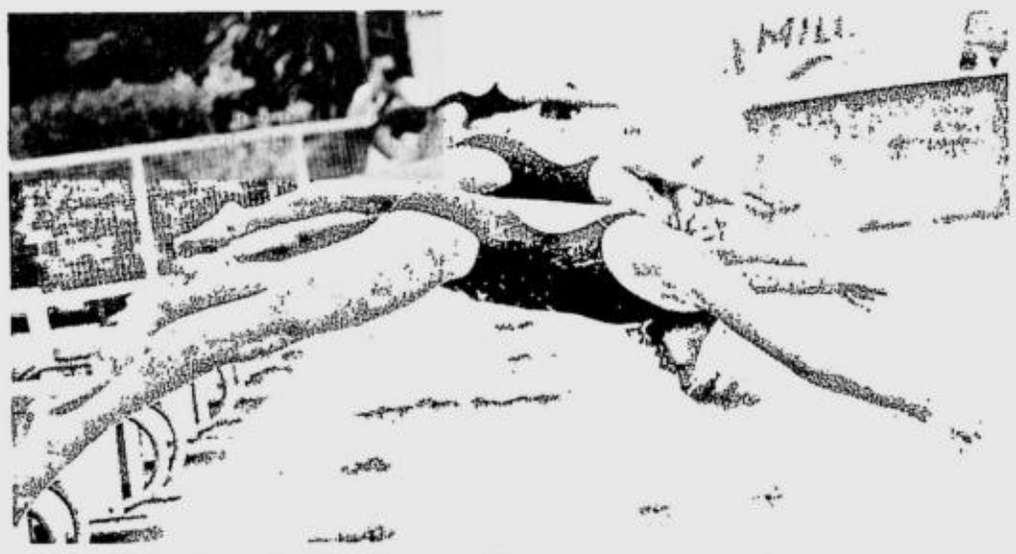
"I have witnessed and experienced things like that as a player," Lithuania coach Antanas Sireika said of the missed free throws. "When we needed rebounds at the end of the game we had the players on the floor who could get those rebounds."

Meanwhile, Manu Ginobili took charge in the third quarter and made up for his team's 1-for-18 shooting from behind the 3-point line Saturday as Argentina beat New Zealand, 79-62, in the second round of the basketball world championship.

The San Antonio Spurs guard scored 28 points, including Argentina's only 3-pointer of the game, which made it 70-58 with 3 minutes, 47 seconds remaining.

"In the last five games we were making the 3-point shots," said Argentina coach Sergio Hernandez. "Today, New Zealand had a lot do with us making only one." *AP*

THE THRILL of victory and the agony of defeat is in full display at the World Championships. Fabricio Oberto (left) celebrates as Argentina advances at the expense of New Zealand while Marco Belinelli is inconsolable after Italy suffers a tournament-ending loss to Lithuania. AP



SWIMMERS hit the pool in aquatics competition.

Milo unveils Little Olympics

YOUNG ATHLETES WILL TAKE CENter stage when the Manila leg of the 2006 Milo Little Olympics gets under way on Sept. 2-3 and Sept. 9-10 at the Marikina Sports Park.

Elementary and high school students from public and private schools will vie for top honors in athletics, badminton, chess, football, gymnastics, lawn tennis, sepak takraw, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo and volleyball.

Competition in the provincial legs will be staged in the Narciso Ramos Sports and Civic Center in Pangasinan (Luzon), the Cebu Sports Complex in Cebu City (Visayas) and the Don Gregorio Pelaez Sports Center in Cagayan de Oro City (Mindanao).

"We're proud that we remain true to our mission of being an effective partner in molding future champions," said Nestlé AVP and Milo consumer marketing manager Michelle Calo-Alvarillo.

"Thanks to the trust and support of the parents and most importantly, the passion of their children, the Milo Little Olympics continues to be a success year after year."

The Milo Little Olympics was launched in 1988. With its successful staging, the event was also held in Cebu City in 1996, Cagayan de Oro in 1997 and Lingayen, Pangasinan, in 1998.

The event also provides an opportunity to schools that do not have affiliations with major leagues such as the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP), National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), and other tournaments in Visayas and Mindanao.

"We at Milo are heartened that parents and their kids continue to look to us as a trusted partner in helping them realize their sports ambitions," added Milo sports events executive Pat Goc-ong.

He went from rebel rocker to tennis titan

NEW YORK—FROM REBEL TO REGAL, Andre Agassi has seen it all in a two-decade long career that will finally end at the US Open.

He took tennis by storm when he first blasted on to the scene out of Las Vegas in 1986—a motley mix of rock-star hair, facial stubble, cut-off jeans and in-your-face attitude.

Image was everything was the Agassi slogan, but little did anyone know how much that image would metamorphose over the next 20 years.

Along with great rival Pete Sampras, he soon supplanted the ageing Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe as the figureheads of a golden generation of US Tennis stars.

Grand Slam success followed at Wimbledon in 1992, at the US Open two years later and in Australia the following year. He was ranked world No. 1 for 30 weeks from April 1995, the year he shaved his balding head and took Olympic gold at Atlanta in 1996.

But it was too good to last, and in 1997 Agassi suffered a depressing mid-career slump that saw him plummet to No. 141 in the world rankings and embark on a high-profile two-year marriage to actress Brooke Shields.

The chastened Agassi that slowly and painfully emerged from the period was unlike the gung-ho Agassi that had preceded it.

The brash, devil-may-care swagger was gone and in its place emerged a dedicated professional tennis player, who became a spokesman for the sport and a role model for millions.

It is no coincidence that asked recently to look back on his career and pick the greatest moment, Agassi had no hesitation in selecting his thrilling win in the 1999 French Open final when he came back from two sets to love down against Andrei Medvedev to complete his collection of Grand Slam titles.

That was something that proved beyond such greats as Bjorn Borg, McEnroe, Ivan Lendl and Sampras and Agassi is proud of that achievement.

ANDRE Agassi is ready to say goodbye to the tennis world. AFP

"Winning in Paris was the moment that is the biggest in my career because of what it entailed," he said.

"It entailed falling to 140 in the world, it entailed a lot of hard work to climb the mountain.

"From that point on, the rest was a bonus."

And what a bonus it turned out to be as Agassi embraced his 30s just as effectively as he had done his teen years.

He won three Australian Opens out of four from 2000, played what are still considered to be all-time tennis classics against Pat Rafter in the Wimbledon 2000 semifinals and against old foe and friend Sampras in the 2001 and 2002 US Opens.

His 2001 marriage to women's tennis legend Steffi Graf had resulted in the birth of two children and senior citizen Agassi comfortably took on the role of family man.

But the years of pounding it out on the courts had taken their toll and Agassi has found it harder and harder to get himself tournament fit, needing regular cortisone injections to fight off chronic back pain.

In late June he announced that it was all over after the US Open. *AFP*

Determined Sabal eighth in surf run

NOTHING, NOT EVEN SIDEWALK CAFE chairs and flower boxes on William Street, could stop Crisencio "Cris" Sabal from running a good race in the 36th Sydney City to Surf Run.

Starting from the second line, Sabal managed to finish 8th place in the 14-kilometer race participated in by 63,000 runners with a time of 43.13 minutes.

The Philippine representative, who earned his slot after winning in the 5th C-Lium Fibre Mt. Makiling Challenge staged by UP Los Baños, put up a good race against the seeded Africans and Steve Monegettie to do the country proud.

After a rough start, Sabal put on speed and ran on the other side of the lane to get a better pace to beat the crowd. He even skipped the drink stops to catch up with the lead pack.

Sabal's participation was backed by Philippine Airlines.

Special Edition hot Lakambini race bet

By Musong R. Castillo

TRIPLE CROWN LEG WINNER SPECIAL EDITION sets out as the prohibitive pick against nine other three-year-old fillies in the Philracom-sponsored P1 million "Lakambini" Stakes today at the Santa Ana Park in Makati.

Veteran Manolito Daquis handles the bay daughter of Conquistarose out of Gold Edition in the back-breaking 1,800-meter race that offers P600,000 to the champion.

Post time is 5:25 p.m. and though favored, it certainly does not look to be a walk in the park for stayer Special Edition.

Fellow Triple Crown veterans Jet Sutter, Tigres in Action and Twelve or Never are also entered together with Rebecca's Magic, Hundred Reason, speedball Mes Monique, Business Class and Hermie Esguerra's Cash Feeder and Sound of Silence.

Daquis will be partnering Special Edition for only the second time, and the hard-driving jockey actually showed everyone a new facet in his mount's game after a wire-to-wire victory in a tune-up race two weeks ago.

Jet Sutter, who was runner-up when Special Edition won the JV Ongpin Cup in June, looms as the chief threat under Jessie B. Guce.

Jet Sutter, Raymund Puyat's entry, will also be coming off an impressive come-from-behind victory last Aug. 12.

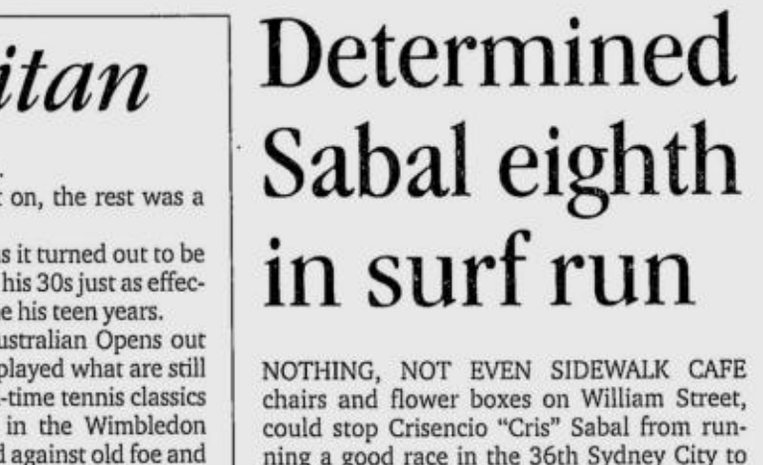
Ferdinand Raquel steers Tigres in Action, while John Saulog pilots Rebecca's Magic.

Cash Feeder and Sound of Silence are coupled entries who will try to keep the Lakambini championship in their stables after Euro Bucks' impressive victory last year.

Antonio Alcasid, Jr. rides Cash Feeder, while Louie D. Balboa reins Sound of Silence, and both could find the race to their liking being noted for their strong finishing kicks.

Jonathan B. Hernandez, voted as the top jockey last year, will pilot Business Class, while RG Fernandez handles Twelve or Never carrying the lightest handicap weight of 52 kilos.

Second place will still be worth P225,000, third P125,000 and fourth P50,000. The breeder of the winning horse goes home with P60,000.



GRAPE CONTEST: Officials from United States Department of Agriculture and California Table Grape Commission signed an agreement with Synergy Asia to organize the 3rd Grapescapade Culinary Treasure Hunt. This race will require teams to go through a series of physical challenges in and around the Eastwood City Complex on September 16. Signing the agreement were Susan Day, vice president, California Table Grape Commission; Dennis Voboril, director, Agricultural Trade Office-US Embassy; and Mandy Saracho, RP representative, California Table Grape Commission

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Three Winners of ₱100,000
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For inquiries: Call the CLPA Secretariat Chelo Marin or Mia Mapagu at (02) 9261453, (0906) 7171022, (0906) 7171023 and (0906) 3020422.
Nomination forms are available at Land Bank Development Assistance Centers, CDA Extension Offices and at the following websites:

www.landbank.com www.ulap.gov.ph www.up-ncpag.org www.nenepimentel.org

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Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

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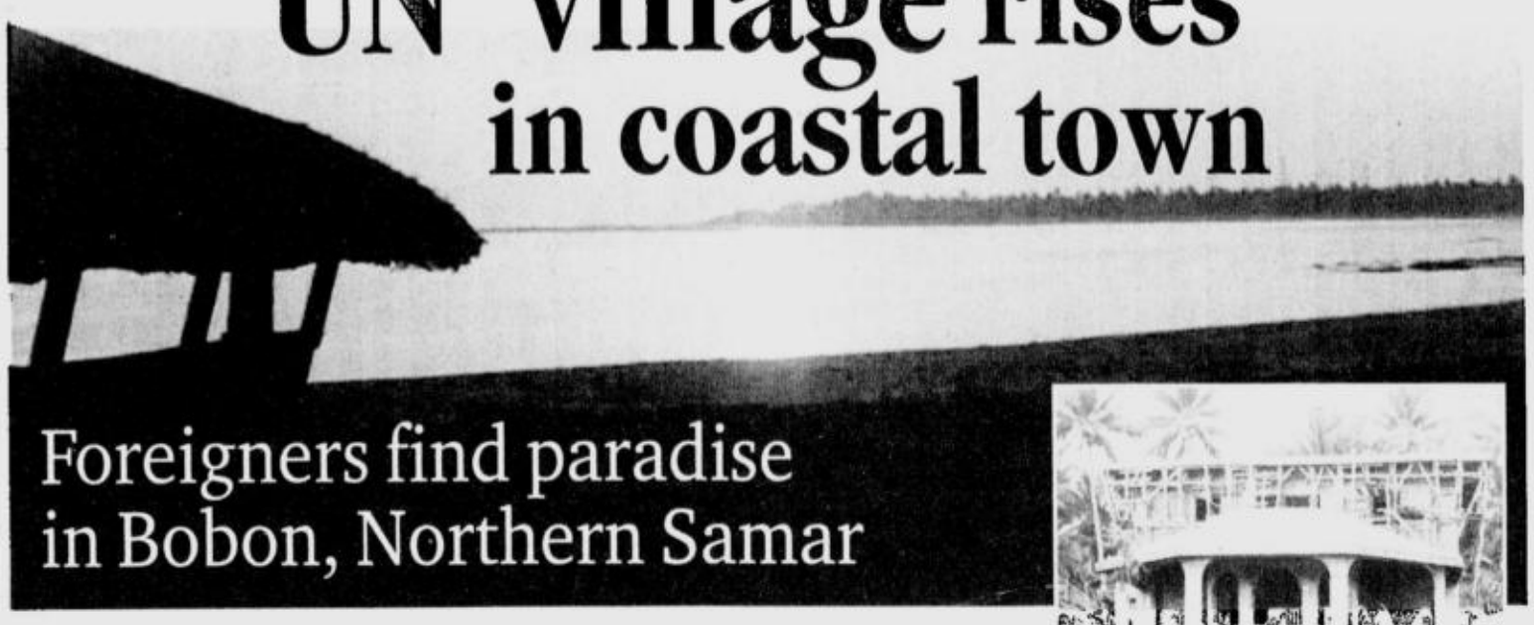


SUNRISE in a beach resort at Bobon, Northern Samar. VEN LABRO

By Vicente S. Labro
Inquirer Visayas

BOBON, NORTHERN Samar—Foreigners are slowly making a small coastal village in this town their second home.

These days, it will not be a surprise to find nationals from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, England, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Hungary, Holland, Korea, China, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Singapore, Canada and the United States living or vacationing in Dancalan, according to 50-year-old Chris Bech, a Norwegian married to a Filipina.

A former exporter of Philippine furniture, Chris and his young wife Maria Teresa "Tess" Fajilan Bech bought and developed a beachfront property in Dancalan and built residential buildings that they sell or lease to foreigners.

Tess, who is in her 20s, also owns and manages a classy beach resort in the area that caters mainly to foreigners.

"We started with one native house and people liked the style. So far, we've constructed 10 different houses (in our residential resort). Eight of them made of native materials while two others were made of concrete materials," Chris says.

Facing the Pacific Ocean, the resort boasts of unpolluted air, a clean environment, a kilometer long crescent-shaped golden sand beach, and tropical palms and other vegetation.

Chris also noted that the resort is just 2 km from the town proper of Bobon, a fifth class municipality, and 10 km from Catarman, the capital town of Northern Samar. This meant that his clients could easily get their food and other supplies from these places.

Catarman, which has an airport, is just a 10-minute land travel away, while most places in the province could be reached through a concrete highway.

Chris says their place is near some island towns with natural wonders waiting to be explored, such as the rock formations in Biri; the beautiful white sand beaches of San Antonio and the sea caves of Capul.

If these were not enough for sun lovers and adventure seekers, they can also explore the entire Samar island, the country's third largest, which has a 300,000-ha Samar Island Natural Park in the mainland, he adds.

Australian Harry Vanleent, 54, has started living in Chris's place just last March but he already has many tales to tell about the fantastic places he'd been to in Northern Samar.

"In Northern Samar we have beautiful islands, we have the reefs, we have the waterfalls and the scenery is spectacular," Vanleent says in an interview.

He discloses that since he arrived here he had learned scuba diving and had met friends who took him to the reefs just a kilometer away from Barangay Dancalan.

The reefs, he says, are comparable to the Great Barrier Reef in his native Australia.

Harry recalls that the first time he came to Samar was when he accompanied a friend who was to get married in southern Samar. It was during that wedding that he met his future wife, who hails from San Jose town in Northern Samar. Months later she brought him to San Jose, which is some 10 kilometers from Bobon town.

ONE of the few concrete houses being built for a foreigner in the beachfront of Barangay Dancalan, Bobon, Northern Samar. VEN LABRO

"I fell in love with this place. I already retired in Australia so I came here because I want to live here," he said, adding that he has been to the island towns nearby and even to the ancient town of Catubig, which is 70 kilometers away.

Vanleent says he prefers the simple country life, which is more down to earth. "I'm not a city boy. I'm a country boy. I don't like commercialism."

Vanleet's place in the area is easy to spot: It has a flagpole in front of the house. The hoisted tiny Australian flag seems to remind him that despite his love and praises for his newfound place, he is still from Down Under.

Equally amazing is the muscular Hawaiian who decided that instead of staying in Hawaii and enjoying the the sun, sea and suft there, he would permanently relocate to Northern Samar after his retirement in a couple of years.

Henry Adam "Hunk" Curtis, 48, who hails from Kauai, Hawaii, says he met Chris on the Internet and when he came to Northern Samar and Chris showed him the property, he immediately fell in love with the place.

"Eventually I will live here. I have a fiancée in Ormoc City and

UN VILLAGE/ B3

The Country Club

THE WEEKEND address of the moneyed of the '90s.

Still for rich, but serving new needs

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

WILLY OCIER OF BELLE Resources Corp. has always been drawn to Tagaytay.

"I had happy times in Tagaytay, I would bring my dates there during college," he says.

Paying close attention to what SM founder Henry Sy told him that Tagaytay was going to be the next rest and recreation site of Manila residents, Ocier went on a land shopping spree in the late '80s with money borrowed from his father.

Armed with over 100 hectares of land, Ocier went to Sy to ask him for a partnership to develop the property. Unfortunately the taipan said no.

Ocier sought another partner—former Trade and Industry Secretary Roberto V. Ongpin, who after taking a helicopter ride over the property agreed to help Ocier develop the property.

Thus was created Tagaytay Highlands—the weekend address of the rich in the 90s.

In a controversial development seven years ago, the relationship between Ocier and Ongpin turned sour and Henry Sy is now the Ocier's partner and the biggest shareholder in Belle Resources.

Ocier says Highlands is attractive to the Chinese because it has wind and water—two elements that are good in feng shui.

But the profile of Highlands buyers has been growing. Emerging markets include the active retiree group composed of those who have made good money and can afford a more leisurely lifestyle but still do occasional work .

Then there is also the affluent Filipino professionals abroad who would like to retire or buy a second home in an area like Tagaytay.

And the up and coming entrepreneurs and businessmen who can afford weekend homes.

Belle Resources VP for Marketing Belinda Herrera says Filipino-Americans, especially, are their target market these days. She says many are already looking at Highlands as their retirement home.

"Many are only 55 to 65 years old who are forced to retire early in the US but get pensions so they can afford to get homes in different countries," she says.

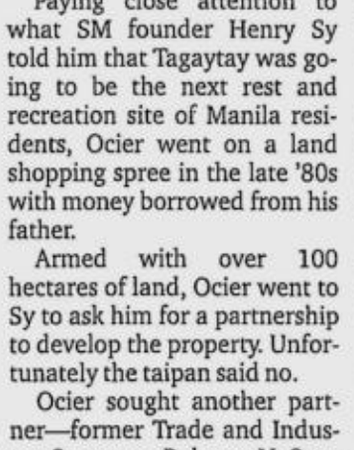
Ocier admits there is a big potential in the overseas market especially in the United States.

"If there are eight million Filipinos abroad, and about three million of them in the US. Just get 10 percent of that as the high-end market and you have a 300,000 market base."

Ocier says as early as the 90s, he already had an "active retiree concept" in mind when he developed Highlands.

"Our project was initially designed for local retirees," he adds.

Active retirees are those who are no longer working full time, who may have passed on the reins of their businesses to their children or relatives but



WILLY Ocier with Henry Sy

STILL/ B3

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2006

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

US CDC urges new cervical cancer vaccine for females

WHITEHOUSE STATION, NEW JERSEY. Merck . Sharp & Dohme (MSD) announced recently that the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (Acip) of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) voted unanimously to recommend that females 11 to 26 years old be vaccinated with quadrivalent human papillomavirus (HPV) recombinant vaccine to prevent cervical cancer, precancerous and low-grade lesions, and genital warts caused by HPV types 6, 11, 16, and 18.

The Committee recommended that the vaccine developed by MSD be administered to 11- and 12-year old females and to those aged 13 to 26 who have not previously been vaccinated, and that nine- and 10-year old females can be vaccinated at the discretion of their physicians. The Acip said that Pap and HPV screening prior to vaccination are not necessary. It also recommended that females can receive the vaccine, called Gardasil, regardless of whether they have or previously had an abnormal Pap test, a positive HPV test, or genital warts.

On June 8, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Gardasil, the only vaccine available for the prevention of HPV types 16- and 18-related cervical cancer, for use in girls and women ages nine to 26 years. Gardasil is a ready-to-use, three-dose, intramuscular vaccine. The FDA approved the MSD vaccine for the prevention of cervical cancer; cervical pre-cancers [cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) 2/3 and adenocarcinoma in situ (AIS)]; vulvar pre-cancers [vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia (VIN) 2/3]; and vaginal pre-cancers [vaginal intraepithelial neoplasia (VaIN) 2/3] caused by HPV types 16 and 18. The vaccine is also approved for the prevention of genital warts and low-grade cervical lesions (CIN 1) caused by HPV types 6, 11, 16 and 18. In the United States, approximately 10,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer every year, and an average of 10 women die each day from the disease.

"MSD is pleased that the Acip has endorsed the use of Gardasil to protect adolescent girls and young women from the potentially serious consequences of HPV infection," said Dr. Mark Feinberg, vice president of policy, public health and medical affairs for Merck Vaccines. "Gardasil was specifically designed to reduce HPV-related clinical diseases caused by HPV types 6, 11, 16 and 18, and this recommendation from the ACIP will help to ensure that this vaccine can do just that for many girls and young women."

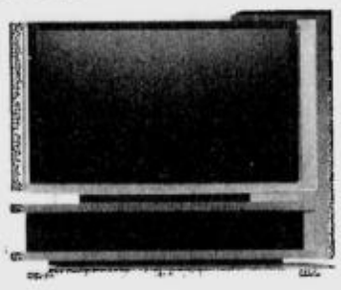
During the meeting, the ACIP also voted to add Gardasil to the CDC's Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Since 1994, the VFC program has provided vaccines to children who are Medicaid-eligible, uninsured, underinsured and Native American. After the Acip has made a recommendation for the use of a given vaccine, the Committee votes on whether the vaccine should be included in the VFC program.

13TH NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS CONGRESS VENUE IS INTERCON

Hotel InterContinental Manila is the official hotel venue of the 13th National Public Relations Congress slated on Sept. 27 to 29. Organized by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP), the Congress carries the theme: 'MINDMAP: Charting the course in a new media age.' Shown during the agreement signing between PRSP and HotelInterContinental Manila are: (standing from left) Joel D. Lacsamana, Manila Water Company Inc corporate communications director, PR Congress marketing director, Milen Sison de Qurios, APR, Full Circle Communications and PRSP president, Maloli Katigbak Espinosa, ABS-CBN vice president for government, corporate affairs and PR and 13th PR Congress chair, Carmela Bocanegra, Hotel Intercontinental Manila director for sales and marketing, Butch Raquel, GMA Network Inc, head for corporate communications and PR Congress programs director and Emmie Pagdanganan, Hotel InterContinental Manila catering and banquet manager.

ProductFILES

Sony introduces the 'Ultimate TV'



SONY PHILIPPINES IS SETTING ITS sights onto the future as it launches the Bravia SXRD (Silicon X-tal (Crystal) Reflective Display) projection television, which takes pride in delivering higher than high-definition picture resolution on its two mega pixel screen. Driven by Sony's newly developed SXRD panel device, Bravia Engine PRO signal processor, and the SXRD optical engine, the KS-60R200A and KS-50R200A promise to be nothing short of being but the ultimate TVs. Aside from being investments into a higher than high-definition future, the Bravia SXRD projection television offers value for money because of its power consumption of only 225W, which is lower than around 406W of the 50" plasma, and its replaceable lamp, which ensures a lifetime of picture-perfect TV experience. For inquiries on the new Bravia SXRD projection TVs, get in touch with Sony's Customer Contact Center at (02)878-2600 or 0917-8077669, or e-mail info.sph@ap.sony.com. The KS-60R200A and KS-50R200A are available in Sony Squares, Digital Solutions Plazas, and authorized Sony dealers nationwide.

Suit up for the XDA Atom Exec

02, THE LEADING BRAND IN PDA-PHONES WELcomes a new addition to its stable of the increasingly popular Xda Atom, the Xda Atom Exec. This smart business suit just became smarter—and faster. Running on the powerful Intel 520MHZ, with a capacity of 192MB on-board memory, this is precisely the kind of assistant you need to get everything done, exactly the way you want it done, down to the minute detail. The Xda Atom Exec guarantees you need not have to waste a minute of your day, ever again.

Banaba in a capsule

RESEARCH STUDIES CONDUCTED BY JAPAN'S Meiji Pharmaceutical University and the United States' Southeastern Institute of Biomedical Research in Florida show that Banaba has insulin-like properties. It is known to help lower blood sugar. Now, all the health benefits of Banaba is now in a capsule. Diaban contains 350 mg of Banaba. Take it daily, not only to control blood sugar but also to control weight gain. Available in all Mercury drugstores and other leading drugstores nationwide.

Photoline opens new branch

PHOTOLINE RECENTLY OPENED its new branch at The Block-SM North Edsa. Photoline's latest branch is conveniently located at the ground floor right across the main mall. In accordance with Photoline's objective to offer the best photo services without compromising quality, the newly opened branch showcases top of the line digital printing machinery and the finest photographic equipment and accessories. Photoline services range from one-hour developing and studio shots to the latest digital cameras and accessories.

Nike Rockstar Workout at Fitness First

WITH THE SUCCESS OF THE FIRST TWO DANCE styles already introduced - Nike Rockstar Hip Hop and Nike Rockstar Sol, a Latin American dance workout - Fitness First now offers Nike Rockstar Bollywood. The new class borrows the unique dance styles seen in movies coming out of India, the largest film industry in the world. Fitness First offers its Nike Rockstar Workout: Bollywood in all its clubs located in Alabang, Greenhills, ABS-CBN, Fairview, Fort Bonifacio, RSC-Makati, Eastwood City, Robinsons Metro East, Ayala Center Cebu, Ortigas, Manila, Fitness First Plus at RCBC Plaza and its latest branch at SM South Mall, Las Piñas. Fitness First's Nike Rockstar Workout series will also be offered when its 14th branch opens later this year at SM North Edsa's The Block.

Super Merienda Meals at Super Bowl

THIS AUGUST, SAVOR SUPER BOWL OF CHIna's delectable yet affordable Super Merienda Meals. For only P99 (inclusive of VAT, exclusive of 10 percent service charge), indulge in any of their five mouth watering merienda combos. Each of Super Bowl of China's Super Merienda Meals also include a traditional Chinese Dessert of Sesame Ball and a glass of Lipton Iced Tea (Green Tea or Honeymansi). Dine-in and enjoy the Super Merienda Meals meals from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays to Fridays, until Aug. 31

Globe Kantabataan

GLOBE KANTABATAAN IS THE COUNTRY'S FIRST band and youth anthem competition to cover major geographical areas around the country. 7th Skool's Skool Bus, DROP d's Bagong Pananaw, Footprint's Lakas Kabataan, Ichthus' Sayaskwela, and Jylz's Iba Tayo now reach thousands of listeners as radio stations have begun playing them. Whose song should earn the top spot? Who will win P100,000 for the band and another P100,000 for their school? Who will star in their own video which will be shown in MTV? Catch the finals to be featured on Asap on Aug. 27.

Jazz gig at Teak Bistro

UPON POPULAR DEMAND, HENRY KATINDIG, THE jazz keyboard maestro, and his quintet returns to Teak Bistro at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell, Makati on Wednesday, Aug. 30. PR-man Shane Ayo Gunting says that Teak will place more seats in the al fresco area where the quintet plays so that everyone will be comfortably seated while savoring the quintet's jazz magic. Guests will also savor and taste the new Filipino-international menu created by food maestro Ed Quimson. In addition, Teak Bistro has a richly-endowed bar and a fine collection of wines from Europe, North America, Argentina, Chile, Australia and South Africa. The live jazz gig, which starts at 6:30 p.m., is co-sponsored by 923 FM Joey Jazz Session, Tanqueray, Cerveza Negra and Teak Bistro.

Ballroom at its best

JIVE AND SWING TO GREAT MUSIC AS MAJA Events Productions just launched ballroom dancing nights at Viva Burgos Café and Dance Club at the 3rd floor, Oxford Suites, Burgos corner Durban Streets, Makati City. Dance to the tune of swing, cha-cha, mambo, salsa and all your other favorite ballroom dance grooves as DJ Marco sets the mood for strutting the night away. Entrance fee of P150 comes with a free welcome drink, no consumable. So gear up, polish your dancing shoes and join us every Tuesday and Friday from 7pm to 1am for a night of nothing but pumping dance moves. At Viva Burgos and Dance Club, you can experience ballroom dancing the way it should be. For reservations, please call Oxford Suites at 670-3333.

2006 CEO Excel Awards

TOP-LEVEL MANAGERS WHOSE OUTSTANDING communication skills helped achieve business and stakeholder objectives will be recognized in the 2006 CEO Excel or Communication Excellence in Organization Awards to be held in early November this year. The 2006 CEO Excel Awards will be formally launched at the IABC General Membership Meeting on Sept. 5, at the 25th floor of Ayala Tower I, on Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Nominations should be submitted way before the deadline on Oct. 9. Nominations can be entered for 12 industry sectors but a top-level executive can be nominated to not more than two categories. Nomination forms are available at the IABC Secretariat at Penthouse 9, Manila Bank Bldg., Ayala Ave. near Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, or may be e-mailed to interested parties. Call 750-5667 or 750-1481, or e-mail info@iabc.com.ph or iabcceoexcel@gmail.com.

Burger King promo

IF YOU FIND THAT OPTIONS ARE RUNNING AS LOW and little as your thinning wallet and morale, do not compromise. Hop on over to Burger King where taste and value is of premium importance and guest satisfaction is a must. Saunter into Burger King and ask for the P69 Whopper Jr. Value Combo. Served with your large 22 oz. drink is a hefty fire-grilled burger with fresh lettuce, mayonnaise, ketchup, tomato, onions and pickles, in between freshly toasted sesame seed buns and prepared only once you order because at Burger King, you just got to Have It Your Way.

'Knorr Your Future' promo

KNORR, THE EVERYDAY WOMAN'S SECRET weapon to her cooking and to her future, will bring her Love, Health, Success and Wealth through the "Knorr Your Future Raffle Promo." P300,000 is the grand prize for Health; a carinderia showcase, is in store for Success; it's a family trip for four to Hong Kong Disneyland for Love; For Wealth, its a P1 Million cash prize for the winner. To join, simply write on a piece of paper "Knorr Your Future Raffle Promo", name, address, telephone number and signature, and place it in a white envelope along with three various Knorr products. Label the envelope with "Knorr Your Future Raffle Promo" and deposit in drop boxes in supermarkets, groceries or markets. Entrants can drop as many entries as they want. All entries must be handwritten. The preliminary draw is on Sept. 23, in key cities in Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Deadline of submission of entries is on Sept. 15. The winner of each area of coverage should be a resident of that area. Non-winning entries in the preliminary draw are automatically eligible for the Grand Draw. The Grand Draw in Metro Manila is on Nov. 18. Entries should be submitted on or before Nov. 4, to qualify for this draw.

Kilyawan Boys Choir feted

THE KILYAWAN BOYS CHOIR CAME BACK HOME with honors and merits that they won for the Philippines in the recently concluded World Choir Olympics held in Xiamen, China on July 14 to 26. Among the merits they won are: Category 25 (Folk Music with Accompaniment); Silver Diploma (Qualifying Round); Category 4 (Mixed Boys Choir); Golden Diploma Category Champion (Qualifying Round); Category 23 (Pop Choral Music); Golden Diploma (Qualifying Round); and Silver Medal (Olympic Round). New Era Travel & Tours Inc, the official travel agent of the Kilyawan Boys Choir, in cooperation with Philippine Air Lines, joins the boys' supporters and all the Filipino people in congratulating them.

UP-PGH postgrad course

THE DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS OF THE Philippine General Hospital, University of the Philippines-Manila, in cooperation with the Child Foundation Inc, will hold its 2006 Subspecialty Postgraduate Course entitled "Across Borders: Childhood Infections in the Subspecialties" on Aug. 30 and 31, at the Century Park Hotel, Manila. This postgraduate course aims to update health care professionals on validated approaches to the prevention, diagnosis and management of pediatric and adolescent infections, unique to various organ systems. For inquiries, contact Dr. Christina L. Cifra, the postgraduate course coordinator, or Merla Ramirez, the executive assistant, at 524-0892, or 521-8450 loc. 2101 or 2107.

Miriam College homecoming

ALL MIRIAM COLLEGE (FORMERLY MARYKNOLL College) alumni are enjoined to celebrate its annual homecoming on Sept. 9, at the Miriam College school grounds. "Vivace80" is the special theme of this year's homecoming which coincides with the school's 80th anniversary. To highlight Miriam College's colorful history, celebration activities include the presentation of the 2006 Amazing Alumni Achievers, performances from the 2006 Homecoming Jubilarians, exhibits on the "Life of Mother Mary Joseph," foundress of the Maryknoll Sisters, and "80 Years of Maryknoll/Miriam Spirit". Other activities for the alumni to enjoy are a campus tour, a food fair, a mini-bazaar and a disco party. The school's daycare facilities will be available to alumni with small children. The High School Silver Jubilee Class of 1981 is this year's main homecoming organizers. For inquiries, call the Alumni Office at 426-0173.

US employer here to interview RNs and PTs

JOB STATION COMPANY INC A POEA-LICENSED overseas placement agency announces the arrival in September of representatives of Pan American Recruiters Inc and of the US hospitals and physical rehabilitation facilities it services. Pan American provides nurses to University of Chicago Hospital, Western Arizona Regional Medical Center, and St. Barnabas Hospital in New Jersey. It supplies physical therapists to Healthsouth and Benchmark, two of the leading physical rehabilitation networks in the US. Pan American's local partner is Job Station Company which has been deploying nurses and physical therapists to the United States on immigrant visa. Their office is located at Unit 201 Erisha Condominium, 1142 P. Ocampo (formerly Vito Cruz) corner Dian Sts., Malate, Manila with tel. nos. 528-1991 and 524-4788.

Green tea delight, guilt-free pleasure!

IT'S NO SECRET. THE WAY TO KEEPING A 24-INCH waistline is paved with pain and deprivation. And for those whose palate craving outweighs the hard work of physical workout, nothing seems more excruciating than skipping a refreshing cup of a creamy delight after a fulfilling meal. Fortunately, with Nestle 0 fat No Sugar Added Frozen Dessert in green tea flavor, after-meal delight - which has become more tempting - is no longer as sinful as it used to be. Science's most interesting discovery by far, at least for those desperately seeking ways to lose the extra poundage, is green tea's capability to speed up metabolism, crucial in losing weight. In one research published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, green tea is said to efficiently increase the calorie burning process, allowing the body to naturally rid itself of fat and other unhealthy excesses. Also available in Mango and Cafe Vanilla flavors in Mercury self-service stores nationwide, Nestle's latest treat gives all those wanting to shed off the extra pounds a healthy reason to indulge!

BITS Clips

Philam Bank promo

START SAVING UP OR GET A CAR LOAN AT PHILAM Savings Bank and you get the chance to win American-inspired dream vacations in Baguio, Disneyland Hong Kong and even New York, USA in Philam Savings' Big Apple Promo. From May 22 to Oct. 31, you can earn electronic raffle coupons for new or incremental deposits into your savings, checking and time deposit accounts, or when you get a loan for brand new or previously owned cars. On Sept. 2, there will be three winners of an all-expenses paid holiday for four (2 adults and 2 children) in Disneyland Hong Kong. Finally, a huge bite of the big apple - six days and five nights stay at Waldorf Astoria Hotel, round trip economy airfare via Northwest Airlines, Broadway Tickets for two plus US$1,000 pocket money - is up for the taking for two lucky winners at the grand draw on Nov. 15. All prizes come with pocket money and are tax-paid. For inquiries, you may call 813-9772 loc. 2033 or your nearest Philam Savings Bank branch.

Hope to teach IM kids

HOPE WORLDWIDE PHILIPPINES IS DUE TO launch its nationwide campaign to teach around 1 million children how to protect themselves against sexual abuse. To kick things off is what's been dubbed as "Hope Walk 2006." This will be attended by around 4,000 volunteers and other advocates of child protection. Volunteers of Hope Worldwide in 14 key cities nationwide will visit schools, barangays and churches in order to reach its target of 1 million children. Training will also be conducted among corporate employees, so that they can learn how to prevent and identify child sexual abuse in their own families and communities. To support the campaign, you may be trained to become an advocate against child sexual abuse and/or join the Oct. 28 Hope Walk at the Quezon City Memorial Circle and display your stand against CSA. For more information, contact Ingrid C. Le at 816-4960 or ingridc_le@yahoo.com.

Laguna College homecoming

LAGUNA COLLEGE H/S CLASS '61 WILL HOLD ITS 45th alumni homecoming on Oct. 7 and 8 in San Pablo City. Balikbayan alumni are expected to attend this 2-day affair. For details, contact Ruben Caperiña at (02)531-2340 or Arman Marquez (049) 562-8607.

Barbie Fab Designers search

THE COMPETITION IS OPEN TO GIRLS AGES 8-15 for the junior fashion designer category and 16-25 years old for the senior category. To join just fill up the entry form with your name, address, age, contact number and signature when you buy any Barbie Fashion Fever product from July 15 to Aug. 31. Attach the proof of purchase, 1 5R size close-up picture, and two trendy, casual Barbie Fashion Fever designs drawn on separate short bond papers. Seal the entries in a small brown envelope and send to Fashion Fever Barbie Fab Designers Search, Richwell Trading Corp. Marketing Office, 25 Quezon Ave., QC. Deadline of submission of entries is on Sept. 7 and judging is on Sept. 9. The 4 grand winners will each receive P10,000 cash, Fashion Fever trophy, and certificate, and special gift packages from Barbie. For more information call Richwell at 732-5141 to 47.

Pi Sigma 34th anniversary

PI SIGMA FRATERNITY CELEBRATES ITS 34TH founding anniversary this August with Pi Sigma Month. A golf tourney called The Paragon Cup Golf Tournament will be held on Aug. 31, at the Camp Aguinaldo Golf Course. All resident and alumni brods are enjoined to participate. For particulars, you may contact Marivic Semilla, PSFAA executive assistant at 0921-4831038 or at 812-7108 loc1. 828.

'UN' village ...

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we have a baby who's 14 days old. We're gonna make a family here," Hunk tells the INQUIRER in an interview.

What he liked most of the place, he says, was its natural beauty and the beautiful people as well as the "lack of overpopulation."

Hunk says he was used to seeing Filipinos because of the large Filipino population in Kauai.

"I even eat *bagoong* (anchovies); but *balut* (fermented duck egg) I can't handle," he says, adding that his fiancée had told him in jest he is not Filipino if he doesn't eat balut.

"So, I'm gonna do it (eat balut)," he laughs, "maybe with Tanduay (rum)."

Palitha Harischandra, a trader originally from Sri Lanka but who spent most of his life in the United Kingdom, has only been in Northern Samar for four days when interviewed by the INQUIRER.

Invited by Chris, Palitha visited Northern Samar to see the possibility of having his own place in the province.

"But I like what I've heard about it, the good weather, the good possibility of the future for development and for future prospects," says the soft-spoken Palitha, who is in his 40s.

Even foreigners who were here just for a vacation also expressed their fascination of Northern Samar, like David William Alexander Forsyth, a 24-year-old native of Scotland, and Chris Campkin, 22, who hails from southwest England. Both were staying in a beach house owned by a woman from the United Kingdom.

"It's really a nice, quiet relaxing place ... and it's not crowded here," the young Chris says, referring to the province.

David, on the other hand, says the people here were "very, very hospitable" and that he had been to many "nice" places in Capul, San Antonio, Biri and Laoang towns as well as the tiny Naranjo Islands.

Norwegian Pierre Gustav "PG" Alexander, 68, has been coming here since last year. "This is my fourth trip to the Philippines," he says, adding that he has been staying in a hotel during his brief visits here in Northern Samar.

Pierre couldn't seem to forget his island hopping trips to Capul and other nearby places like San Antonio. "Capul is a beautiful place inhabited by nice people," he avers.

Chris Bech says he was amazed that Northern Samar attracts not only those in midlife but even those in their 20s. He admits that he, too, is still fascinated by the different places in the province.

Chris first arrived here in 2002, when his former partner in a furniture export firm in Manila, who was from this town, invited him to spend the Holy Week in Bobon. A few months later, he and his wife bought a beachfront property here.

"A few years later we decided to invite other foreigners—environment-friendly, nice foreigners—to share this place with us," he says.

So far, Chris says, they have already built 10 houses in the area and have hired some 40 people in the neighborhood for the cleaning, carpentry and maintenance works. "We have 20 more houses to construct in the next 18 months," he adds.

Chris believed that more foreigners would be coming here in the years to come. "We will try to promote this (place) as a retirement haven in a fresh, clean environment," he vows.

Still for rich...

From page B1

are still doing consultancies or have remained directors of several companies.

On the new entrepreneurs Ocier describes them as those who "manage their time and work and they play with their family."

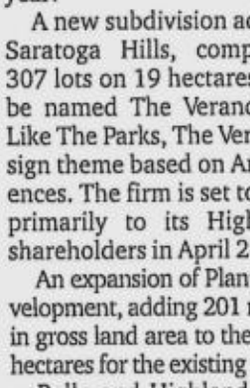
To meet the different needs of its new markets, Belle is developing two projects for this year:

A new subdivision adjacent to The Parks at Saratoga Hills, comprising approximately 307 lots on 19 hectares of gross land area, to be named The Verandas at Saratoga Hills. Like The Parks, The Verandas will follow a design theme based on American regional influences. The firm is set to introduce this project primarily to its Highlands and Midlands shareholders in April 2006.

An expansion of Plantation Hills farm lots development, adding 201 new lots and 24 hectares in gross land area to the total of 460 lots and 69 hectares for the existing four phases.

Belle and Highlands Prime have a master plan that envisions the development of more than 1,700 hectares of land into an integrated residential and leisure community. This integrated community will extend from the ridge of Tagaytay City to the foothills of Talisay and Tanauan, Batangas, and will lap the shores of Taal Lake in Tanauan and Balete, Batangas. Planning and design work started in 2005 for projects that are planned for launch beyond 2006.

A new residential subdivision that will be developed along the south fairways, or the upcoming second 18-hole golf course, of the Tagaytay Midlands golf course. This subdivision will have superb views of Taal Lake, and a pleasant and picturesque location beside Tagaytay Midlands golf course fairways.



HERRERA

A health and wellness center that will cater to both medical and wellness procedures.

European cosmetic chain lands in Manila

LUXURY FRENCH BRAND Marionnaud (mar-yo-no) starts its Asian expansion by going to the Philippines first. With its fashion forward attitude and marked potential in terms of industry expansion, the brand views the country as the next frontier in the business of beauty.

Marionnaud aims to be the brand conscious consumer's top destination for beauty retail therapy. The largest luxury cosmetics and perfumery chain in Europe, with 1,226 outlets in 14 countries that include Italy, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Austria, Morocco and of course France, is opening its first store in Asia in Asia's largest mall, the SM Mall of Asia.

The move coincides with A.S. Watson's (ASW) main aim of revitalizing Marionnaud by leveraging its brands and retail network and by integrating Marionnaud into its international portfolio. A.S. Watson, the retail and manufacturing division of Hong Kong-based multinational conglomerate Hutchinson Whampao Limited acquired Marionnaud at 534 million euros in the first quarter of 2005, upping its worldwide health and beauty store number to over 7,000 making it the largest retail company in the sector.

A.S. WATSON acquired the French perfumery last year

In Asia, A.S. Watson's health and beauty retail operates under the brand name of Watsons Your Personal Care Store, which has over 1,400 outlets in 10 markets including the Philippines, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Macau, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Korea and Indonesia.

ASW Group Managing Director Ian Wade said: "We are excited to introduce the unique Marionnaud concept of beauty to the Philippines. It is a venture that we hope will pave the way for furthering the chain's development throughout Asia. The brand is known to everyone in Europe, and is symbolic of the beauty inspirational experience that clients are sure to get each time they enter a Marionnaud store."

Credited for changing the face of traditional French perfumery, Marionnaud started life next door to a family hardware store. By 1967, originator Bernard Marionnaud had his first complete beauty center in a split-level store with one floor dedicated to perfume and cosmetics and another to a beauty salon. From these inconspicuous beginnings, Monsieur Bernard was able to launch a truly innovative concept: Access to luxury in a privileged environment.

The changes as well as development of the brand continued with the coming of Marcel Frydman, owner of 50 perfumeries in France, and the man who purchased the perfumery chain in 1984 and adapted its well-known name. Building on Marionnaud's concept, Frydman split the stores into two different categories, medium-sized boutiques that had selective distribution and Espaces, the larger perfumeries that also carried health and beauty products.

A succession of acquisitions - Kleber, Patchouli, Votre Beaute, Chloè, among others, and a multitude of small independent perfumeries -boosted its steady rise. Marionnaud purchased the Swiss chain Alrodo (101 stores), and a network of 35 stores in Tuscany, Italy. The group continued to open more stores, particularly the flagship shop in Champs Elysèes. The luxury brand too has accumulated nine million loyalty cards members across Europe.

Marionnaud is set to open its own beauty retail store here in the country by September of 2006. Located at the Mall of Asia, the outlet is the brand's first store in the region. Tessie Sy-Coson, SM Inc.'s president said, "SM is very pleased to have Europe's foremost beauty chain in the Mall of Asia. Marionnaud indeed fits the preferences of the market segment we cater to, and is sure to become a valuable addition to the roster of brands housed in the premiere destination mall in the Asia pacific region."

Going the extra mile with patient relations officers

WHEN THE Y2K CAME IN, many industries took the road towards modernization. From basic services to specialized ones, decision makers have taken significant note of the new demands of people, finding ways and means to quickly respond to changes in lifestyles and expectations to ensure customer satisfaction and continued patronage.

The call center for example, has offered unbridled access to people all over the globe to a myriad of services.

Yet, only a few of the local HMOs have call centers, even as logically they should have one each. Health care services after all should be within reach. HMOs should seriously offer round-the-clock customer service assistance since it can literally become a lifeline to their customers.

In line with IntelliCare's commitment to be responsive, it established its very own call center. But they call it the In-House Customer Service Department to underscore the fact that they are not just an information hotline but a customer service department. It is accessible 24/7, staffed by people equipped not just technologically, but mentally and emotionally as well to handle different types of calls.

Members can easily dial the Customer Service Number ((02) 894-3386) day or night for any problems, queries or assistance for medical emergencies.

The in-house customer service department is manned by medical professionals who are capable. And while most other HMO companies would have the Liaison Officer, IntelliCare has Patient Relations Officers or PROs.

IntelliCare's PROs take into account that patients in need of medical care, are at very vulnerable emotional conditions.

Of all the country's HMOs, IntelliCare has the widest network of affiliated medical providers. It boasts of a network of more than 500 accredited hospitals and clinics and over 8,000 affiliated medical practitioners in their specific fields of medical and surgical practice and professionals nationwide.

IntelliCare only chooses specialists to service its medical clientele.

HMO wants to be different with PROs who can empathize with patients' needs.

IntelliCare's medical director is Ricardo L. Jocson, M.D., a Section Head of the Department of General Surgery at The New Medical City and also the Director of Medical Arts Tower, Inc.

He is a Fellow at the Philippine College of Surgeons, the American College of Surgeons, the Philippine Society of General Surgeons, Philippine Society of Laparascopic and Endoscopic Surgeons and an Associate Fellow at the Philippine Society of Digestive Endoscopy.

For more information about IntelliCare and their products, you can call their 24-hour Customer Service Number (02) 894-3386 or visit their website at www.intellicare.com.ph.

GO PNB Making a Global Imprint
ASSET MANAGEMENT SECTOR
We manage for best value.

PUBLIC AUCTION

SEPTEMBER 21, 2006 • THURSDAY • 2:00 PM • HOTEL ROMA, Cor. Luna and Bonifacio Pilar Sts., Tuguegarao City

CAGAYAN VALLEY

ABULUG

LOT 1 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,625.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 54.00 sqm.
L2857 Brgy Rd Calog Sur
Min Bid Price: 74,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 3,333 sqm.
L2854-D Prov'L Rd. Calog Sur
Min Bid Price: 138,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 2,936.00 sqm.
Lot 3047-O Interior Lot W/ No Access Pinili
Min Bid Price: 39,000.00

ALLACAPAN

LOT 4 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,082.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 278.00 sqm.
L21-B Mun Rd Centro East
Min Bid Price: 1,557,000.00

APARRI

LOT 5 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,015.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 58.00 sqm.
Lot No. 6110-A Landlocked,Binalan
Min Bid Price: 39,000.00

LOT 6 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 500.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 186.00 sqm.
Lot No. 701-P-7-C-3 Nat'L Rd. Macanaya District
Min Bid Price: 2,678,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 516.65 sqm.
Floor Area: 72.00 sqm.
Lot 806-A-3 Subd. Rd. Pf-Subd., Macanaya Dist.
Min Bid Price: 846,000.00

LOT 8 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 96.00 sqm.
Lot 804-E Nat'L Rd Tallungan Macanaya District
Min Bid Price: 2,000,000.00

BALLESTEROS

LOT 9 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,850.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 86.00 sqm.
Lot 4131 Brgy. Rd. Ammubuan
Min Bid Price: 330,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 306.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 106.00 sqm.
Lot No. 1495-B Ogalino St Cabaluan East
Min Bid Price: 439,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 2,800.00 sqm.
Lot No. 728 Arcena St., Cabaritan East
Min Bid Price: 105,000.00

LOT 12 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 6,122.00 sqm.
Lot No. 1151 Landlocked Cabaritan West
Min Bid Price: 80,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 246.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 110.00 sqm.
Lot 825 Prov'L Rd Cabaritan West
Min Bid Price: 43,000.00

LOT 14 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 904.00 sqm.
Lot 864 Landlocked Cabaritan West
Min Bid Price: 19,000.00

LOT 15 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 8,170.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 73.00 sqm.
Lot No. 1486 Brgy. Rd Cabuluan East
Min Bid Price: 258,000.00

LOT 16 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2,179.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 246.00 sqm.
Lot 8046 Cor.Rizal, Concepcion & Luna Sts, Centro East
Min Bid Price: 1,400,000.00

LOT 17 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 1,427.00 sqm.
Lot 6204-I Nat'L Rd. Fugu
Min Bid Price: 107,250.00

LOT 18 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,620.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 95.00 sqm.
Lot No. 4982-C Prov'L Rd. Mabuttal
Min Bid Price: 494,000.00

LOT 19 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 1,414.00 sqm.
Lot 6380 Brgy Rd Mabuttal
Min Bid Price: 46,000.00

LOT 20 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 9,404.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 333.00 sqm.
Lot # 4665 Bonifacio Cortez St., Poblacion
Min Bid Price: 387,000.00

LOT 21 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,124.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 276.00 sqm.
Lot No. 3218 Prov'L Rd Sta. Cruz
Min Bid Price: 909,000.00

LOT 22 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,273.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 242.00 sqm.
Lot No. 4196-C Brgy. Rd Access Rd. Sta Cruz
Min Bid Price: 1,049,000.00

LOT 23 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 3,131.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 99.00 sqm.
L3121 Landlocked Sta.Cruz
Min Bid Price: 90,000.00

LOT 24 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2,174.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 236.00 sqm.
Lot 881 Prov'L Rd Cabaritan West
Min Bid Price: 692,000.00

CAMALANIUGAN

LOT 25 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 600.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 314.00 sqm.
Lot # 2446-A Nat'L Rd Dacal Lafugu
Min Bid Price: 2,119,000.00

LOT 26 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 626.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 63.00 sqm.
Lot 10006 Interior Lot W/ Rd Right Of Way Calototan Norte
Min Bid Price: 281,000.00

GATTARAN

LOT 27 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 3,142.00 sqm.
Lot 715-B Nat'L Rd Aguiguican
Min Bid Price: 176,000.00

LOT 28 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 4,347.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 195.00 sqm.
Lot 174-B Land Locked Cullit
Min Bid Price: 240,000.00

LOT 29 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,114.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 78.00 sqm.
Lot 937-A-2 Land Locked Cullit
Min Bid Price: 47,000.00

LOT 30 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 720.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 91.00 sqm.
Lot 1309-A Nat'L Rd Guising
Min Bid Price: 95,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 4,360.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 110.00 sqm.
Lot 1399-B Nat'L Rd Lapogan
Min Bid Price: 408,000.00

LOT 32 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 4,179.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 203.00 sqm.
Lot 865-B Prov'L Rd Brgy Rd Newagac
Min Bid Price: 338,000.00

LAL-LO

LOT 33 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,044.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 81.00 sqm.
Lot 3529 Brgy Rd Calayauan
Min Bid Price: 99,000.00

LOT 34 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 151.00 sqm.
Lot B-1-A Nat'L Rd Lalafugan
Min Bid Price: 883,000.00

LOT 35 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,810.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 111.00 sqm.
Lot E-2 Nat'L Rd Lalafugan.
Min Bid Price: 598,000.00

LOT 36 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 172.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 60.00 sqm.
Lot No. 3115-A Nat'L Rd. Sta Maria
Min Bid Price: 179,000.00

LLANAM

LOT 37 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 538.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 202.00 sqm.
Lot 3 Nat'L Rd Centro 1
Min Bid Price: 1,164,000.00

LOT 38 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,013.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 221.00 sqm.
Lot E-4 Ignacio, Jurado
Min Bid Price: 1,100,000.00

LOT 39 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2,500.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 168.00 sqm.
Lot A-2-B Nat'L Rd Nabannagan East
Min Bid Price: 961,000.00

LOT 40 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,378.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 81.00 sqm.
L31-B Int. Lot W/ Rd Right Of Way Nabannagan East
Min Bid Price: 396,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 7,285.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 128.00 sqm.
Lot A-2-C Nat'L Rd Nabannagan East
Min Bid Price: 513,000.00

LOT 42 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 1,435.00 sqm.
Lot E-3 Ignacio Jurado St
Min Bid Price: 104,000.00

PIAT

LOT 43 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 3,084.00 sqm.
Lot 1504 Brgy Rd Aguib
Min Bid Price: 100,000.00

LOT 44 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 1,605.00 sqm.
Lot 1393 Land Locked Maguilling
Min Bid Price: 21,000.00

SANCHEZ MIRA

LOT 45 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 10,534.00 sqm.
L3851 Brgy Rd Daquioray
Min Bid Price: 169,000.00

LOT 46 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 553.00 sqm.
Lot 1090 Brgy Rd Nammuac
Min Bid Price: 47,000.00

SOLANA

LOT 47 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 7,470.00 sqm.
Lot 1324 Brgy Rd Basi
Min Bid Price: 288,000.00

LOT 48 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 1,884.00 sqm.
Lot No. 4040 Prov'L Rd Barrio Rd. Lanna
Min Bid Price: 85,000.00

LOT 49 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 530.00 sqm.
Lot 4051 Prov'L Rd Lanna
Min Bid Price: 24,000.00

LOT 50 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 42,643.00 sqm.
L8314-B Land Locked Lanna
Min Bid Price: 336,000.00

STA. MARGERITA

LOT 51 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,455.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 104.00 sqm.
Lot 146 Brgy Rd Barucbuc
Min Bid Price: 236,000.00

SYOMILO

LOT 52 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 5,374.00 sqm.
Lot 4931 Barrio Rd Balanac
Min Bid Price: 36,000.00

TABUK

LOT 53 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,500.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 83.00 sqm.
Lot 754-A-4 Nat'L Rd Nat'L Highway, Bulanao
Min Bid Price: 1,136,000.00

LOT 54 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,250.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 88.00 sqm.
Lot 2367 Brgy Rd Bulanao
Min Bid Price: 507,000.00

LOT 55 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 392.00 sqm.
L744-C Subd Rd Bulanao
Min Bid Price: 200,000.00

LOT 56 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 600.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 22.00 sqm.
Lot 569-A-14-A Prov'L Rd Laya West
Min Bid Price: 259,000.00

LOT 57 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2,250.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 133.00 sqm.
Lot 247-A-4 Balakang St Nasqueban
Min Bid Price: 431,000.00

LOT 58 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 462.50 sqm.
Floor Area: 110.00 sqm.
Lot 184-F-2 Rd Right Of Way Nasqueban
Min Bid Price: 444,000.00

LOT 59 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 639.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 127.00 sqm.
Lot1772-B Roxas Mayangao St., Poblacion
Min Bid Price: 1,264,000.00

LOT 60 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 600.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 175.00 sqm.
Lot 19-F Prov'L Rd Laya East
Min Bid Price: 594,000.00

TUAO

LOT 61 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 5,031.00 sqm.
Lot No. 1386 Brgy. Rd Dagupan
Min Bid Price: 69,000.00

LOT 62 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 128,371.00 sqm.
Lot H-186574 Dagupan
Min Bid Price: 100,000.00

LOT 63 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 1,413.00 sqm.
Lot No. 1518-A Brgy. Rd. Fugu
Min Bid Price: 21,000.00

LOT 64 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 1,413.00 sqm.
Lot No. 1518-B Brgy. Rd Fugu
Min Bid Price: 21,000.00

LOT 65 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 1,414.00 sqm.
Lot 1518-D Brgy Rd Fugu
Min Bid Price: 28,000.00

LOT 66 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 2,338.00 sqm.
Lot No. 3736 Landlocked Lallayug
Min Bid Price: 12,000.00

LOT 67 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 7,424.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 82.00 sqm.
Lot 1009 Brgy Rd Palca(Angang)
Min Bid Price: 99,000.00

LOT 68 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 7,274.00 sqm.
Lot 1031 Barrio Rd Palca
Min Bid Price: 100,000.00

LOT 69 - LOT WITH IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 6,757.00 sqm.
Lot 965 Barrio Rd Palca
Min Bid Price: 154,000.00

LOT 70 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 10,000.00 sqm.
Lot 1-A Brgy. Rd. Villa Leida
Min Bid Price: 128,000.00

TUGUEGARAO

LOT 71 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 2,770.00 sqm.
Lot 7529 Linao West
Min Bid Price: 13,000.00

LOT 72 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 393.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 128.00 sqm.
Lot No. 1269-E, 12-B Luna St., Extn., Ugac Sur
Min Bid Price: 568,000.00

RIZAL

LOT 73 - LOT WITH MAKESHIFT IMPRVT
Lot Area: 24,968 sqm.
Lots 2101 & 2102 Linwan
Min Bid Price: 158,000.00

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OPPORTUNITIES

How to start a business

THE PHILIPPINE TRADE TRAINING CENTER (PTTC) OF THE Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) invites prospective entrepreneurs to a "Seminar on How to Start a Business" on Sept. 7, 2006 at the seminar room A, 2nd floor of the PTTC Bldg. Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue cor. Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

The seminar aims to prepare the participants in building up their capabilities in business. Topics are: Self-Analysis on Entrepreneurial Capability, Personal Skills/Experience, Finding a Niche, Market Analysis, Planning your Start-up, Your Business and the Law, Protecting your business, Business Premises and Location, Merchandise and Business Records.

Learn basic MS Word

LEARN to encode, format and print a document using MS Word. Explore MS Word applications such as spell check, thesaurus and other wizards with ease.

The PTTC will conduct a "Seminar on Basic MS Word" on Sept. 5, 2006 at the seminar room D, second floor of PTTC Building at Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue cor. Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

PTTC also offers other courses on information and communications technology. These are MS Excel, MS Powerpoint, Dreamweaver MX, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Pagemaker, Flash and Macromedia Fireworks.

Briefing on Kaizen philosophy

KAIZEN is a Japanese term that means improvement. It's philosophy is to focus on small and gradual improvements over a long period of time. More than quality, Kaizen is concerned on waste elimination, just-in-time delivery and standardized work.

The PTTC will conduct a "Briefing on the Kaizen Philosophy" on Sept. 5, 2006 at seminar room C, second floor of the PTTC Building, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue cor. Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

Color merchandising talk set

Colors have a strong psychological effect on the lives of people. They reflect different types of personalities and moods depending on the selection of hues, tones or intensity. In the work environment suck as shops, and offices, colors are proven to be exceedingly valuable in increasing the efficiency and morale of employees.

For garment companies, color in the merchandising process is the key to ensuring the effective planning and controlling of merchandise assortment. Color identification and color quality evaluation guarantee customer satisfaction, assortment diversity and quality improvement.

The PTTC of the Department of Trade and Industry will conduct the "Seminar on Color Merchandising" on Sept. 5, 2006 at the seminar room B, second floor of the PTTC Bldg., Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue cor. Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

The seminar will discuss the concept of color predictions, the application of colors to relay impact on garments and the approach of designers in selecting colors for design execution. It will cover topics on color for merchandising, color theory, colors in production and selling colors.

For inquiries and reservations on the above seminars and talks, call 8341344-49 local 303 and 833-7337 or fax at No. 8341343.

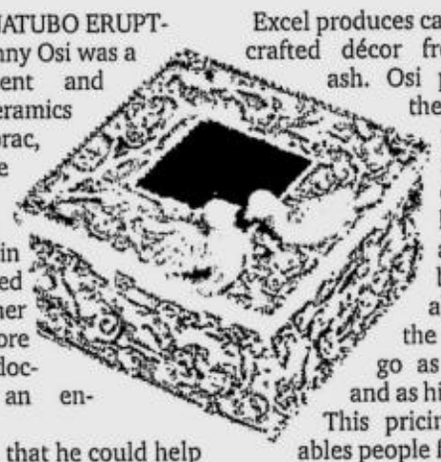
Learn soap-making

IN LINE with the government's objective to give jobs and business for those who would like to venture into the soap-making business, the Golden Treasure Skills and Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar on soap-making to be held at the UPAA Alumni Center, Magsaysay Avenue, Ylanan St., University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City on Sept. 2, Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Topics to be discussed are sourcing of materials and costing. Participants will get to experience on how to make liquid dishwashing soap, liquid hand soap, liquid all-purpose soap, bar detergent soap, herbal bath soap (papaya, kalamansi, cucumber, oatmeal etc.) powder soap, fabric softener, car shampoo, bonus courses are liquid bleach, tile and bowl cleaner and how to process virgin coconut oil for soap. Participants will receive certificate of training right after the seminar. All the materials will be provided. For questions, call 952-40-28; 436-78-26; 952-29-34; 951-29-66 and 913-65-51.

Frames rise from the ashes

WHEN MT. PINATUBO ERUPTED in 1991, Sonny Osi was a medical student and owner of a ceramics factory in Porac, Pampanga. The tragedy forced Osi to assess his mission in life. He asked himself whether he would be more effective as a doctor or as an entrepreneur.



Osi realized that he could help not only himself and his family but also his fellow Pampangueños by rebuilding his business literally and figuratively from the ashes. After relocating to Angeles City, Osi thought long and hard how to make the Pinatubo tragedy work for him and his plan. The answer lay in the lahar or volcanic debris that covered the province and destroyed many homes, landmarks and commercial establishments.

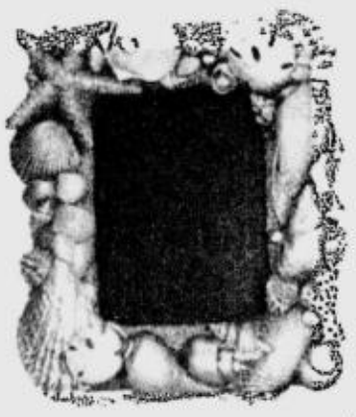
Osi thought of making picture frames from lahar. Excel Frames n Decors was born in 1992, making the once-hated volcanic debris a popular material for decors not only in the Philippines but also in other countries.

Excel produces carefully handcrafted décor from volcanic ash. Osi proudly says the materials used for each item are earth-friendly, nontoxic and biodegradable. Prices for the merchandise go as low as P80 and as high as P7,000. This pricing range enables people from all cross-sections of society to buy and enjoy Excel's products.

Excel's entry into the export market began in 1993 when the firm participated in a Hong Kong trade fair with the backing of Nelly Villafuerte, then an undersecretary for the Department of Trade and Industry, and Mina Gabor, then the country's tourism secretary.

From Hong Kong, Osi and Excel took on the US and Europe. The company has won a number of awards, including the 25th Arch of Europe Gold Star Award given in France in 1999; the 19th Int'l Quality Summit Award, Diamond Category in New York; the 27th Int'l Platinum Star Award in Quality given in Geneva, Switzerland.

SONNY Osi receives Int'l Quality Award in Geneva, Switzerland



"You have to think of ways to rise above tragedy," says the 36-year-old entrepreneur.

From a start-up capital of just P10,000 in 1992, Excel now has 55 regular employees, with about 30 more contracted during peak seasons. Most of them are artists tasked to come up with new designs. Osi has learned to delegate so that he would have time for other aspects of the business, including marketing and promotions.

Osi dreamt of setting up shops in New York and Paris, "where the action is." He may not have realized this dream, but his frames and decors are available and bought in showrooms all over the world. "In 15 European countries, including the US," he states.

Excel Frames n Decors is one of the participants in Wedding Expo Philippines, at the PICC Forum, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard on Sept. 2-3. For queries, call 371-9783 or 818-9794.

Wife's persistence leads to successful retail venture

DESMARK CORP. IS NOT KNOWN all over the country but in Mindanao it is a name that is synonymous with motorcycles and consumer electronics.

The story of Desmark Corp. started with a small store in Jagna, Bohol, in 1980 named Dueksam. It was then a family-owned business managed by Gilbert Du. Dueksam had branches in the Visayas areas. In 1988, Fe suggested to her husband to start their own business since her brothers and sisters had finished their studies. Fe felt that it was time to concentrate on their own growing family and leave the management of Dueksam to his siblings.

The Dus moved to Butuan City—a calculated move to avoid competition between the parent corporation—Dueksam, and the fledling Desmark Corp. It proved to be a wise decision. Butuan City in 1988 was the center of a booming lumber industry and a business hub in the Caraga region. From Butuan City, Fe opened a branch in Cagayan de Oro City in 1991 and put the head office there. It was only in 1994 that Gilbert gave up Dueksam and worked full time for Desmark.

Desmark Corp. has gained a fair share of the appliance business, despite the stiff competition from other dealers because of the couple's unique management style. Transparency and honesty in dealing with customers is of paramount importance. In the early years, all the branches and stores carried well known brands as Panasonic, Sony and LG Collins. They were not keen on advertising, and their sales were gained through endorsements from satisfied customers.

Loyalty and hardwork are the core qualities the couple looks for in their employees. In fact, almost all managers in all their branches come from their very first branch in Cagayan de Oro, the Desmark Cogon branch. They consider their employees as part of their family to the extent that they even look into their personal lives and call them for one-on-one talks when the need arises.

As the business environment changed in Mindanao, the couple started giving their two sons, Marvin and Mark, more responsibilities in the business.

FE and Gilbert Du

Fe realizes that establishing the business and seeing it grow, being able to communicate with dealers, and being able to make a very significant difference in the quality of life of their more than 200 employees are among her major accomplishments in life.

The Du couple has more time to travel now but they have also used this activity to keep abreast with the latest trends and designs in the market. These travels abroad have led them to a partnership with Samsung. They saw that Samsung established a foothold in different markets because of their technology and designs. Cagayan de Oro has proven to be a good market to high-end products and new technology.

Today, the Dus are working on a dream: to establish a scholarship fund to the children of employees who have worked with them and have been loyal all these years. They hope to be able to do this soon.

There are 26 branches in Mindanao—11 of these branches are outlets for motorcycles and 15 are appliance stores. Gilbert's brothers have also established their own businesses on the other side of Mindanao.

Charting public relations in the new media age

IN TODAY'S WIKI-ENABLED Internet Age, anyone can voice out his opinion and pass this off as fact. Real issues, however, need real solutions.

Today's PR practitioner faces issues unique to his times. How does one protect one's image despite the proliferation of blogs and alternative publishing avenues? How can one break through from the cacophony of messages and make oneself heard? How can a PR practitioner ensure that his messages are received by his target market?

These questions are a sample of what the 13th National PR Congress wishes to address. Organized by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) and with the theme of Mindmap: Charting the Course of PR in a New Media Age, the congress offers a panel of distinguished resource speakers to tackle the most pertinent issues facing the PR industry today.

To discuss branding and how to make your company stand out from the rest, the Congress has invited Chito Sobrepeña and Danilo Gozo, to share their experiences on the subject.

Sobrepeña spent 22 and a half years in public service. He now leads the Metrobank Foundation Inc.

Danilo Gozo brings to the congress 33 years of PR practice that started back in the days of martial law.

To talk about crisis management in the age of instantaneous information, the congress has invited Napocor president Cyril del Callar to share his wealth of knowledge.

The 13th National PR congress will be on Sept. 28 & 29, 2006 at the grand ballroom of the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila.

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Books, bookfairs are booming industries

THE PHILIPPINE BOOK INDUSTRY is in a buoyant mood with local publishing houses churning out new titles, book retailers aggressively offering a wide range of book genres, and an upcoming international bookfair that brings them all together to serve the book loving market.

Contrary to earlier predictions that the end for books was near in the era of Internet, and a slew of gadgets and gizmos, the global book industry is alive and doing well.

"The books coming out now are not only better in content, but also in production and design quality," affirms Lirio Sandoval, president of the Book Development Association of the Philippines (BDAP).

Philippine Educational Publishers Association (Pepa) president Dominador Buhain said in his industry report, "Publishing Today (Philippines)," that as of December 2004, there are already 104 book publishers in the country, a significant jump from the previous year's 86. In 2005, 5,429 books were produced in the country, based on the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) culled by the Philippine National Library.

Anvil Publishing, the biggest and most progressive tradebook publisher in the Philippines, has put out over 1,200 titles since it was founded in 1990.

Adarna House, the first and largest Filipino children's book publisher, has produced over 200 original stories that focus on Filipino values, culture, history and experiences. Vibal Publishing House Inc., one of the top educational publishers, has produced more than 5,000 textbook titles.

Primetrade Asia, organizer of the Manila International Book Fair (MIBF) for 27 years now, shares its momentous entry in the industry.

"When we started the bookfair in 1979, we just had a few publishers in a small venue. But the fact that we have hundreds of participants now—from publishers to retailers—attests to the growth and dynamism of the industry. It has become a one-stop shop for sought-after titles, and has also become a launch pad for publishers to showcase their latest titles," observes Irene B. Lloren, Primetrade Asia president.

MIBF gate statistics count about 50,000 people troop to the bookfair on its five-day run. Over a hundred local and foreign exhibitors showcase books, magazines, periodicals, journals and other educational materials and equipment.

With all things looking up for local book publishers and an unprecedented industry event to showcase them every year, Sandoval positively looks forward to the future prospects in the industry. ***Maribel Chan, contributor***

(The bookfair is on Aug. 30 to Sept. 3 at the World Trade Center, Roxas Boulevard. For details, call 890-0661 or 896-0682)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

sms feedback: inquirer life message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or e@inquirer.com.ph

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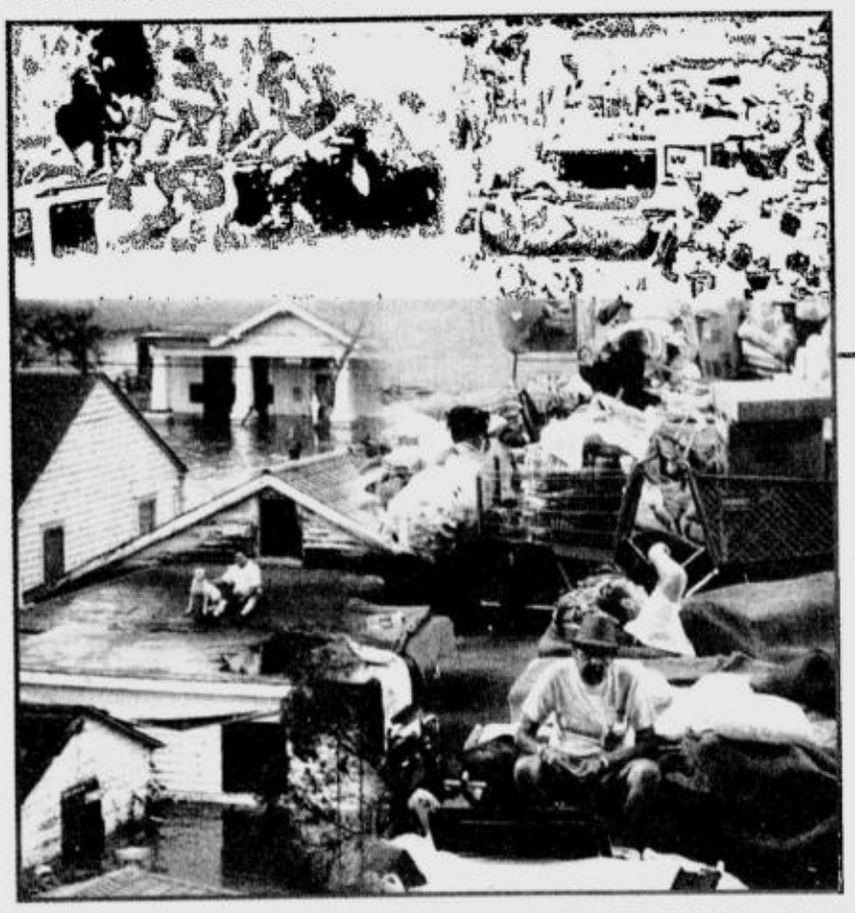


The day Hell bloweth over

A Filipino journalist recounts the ordeal of Katrina survivors

By Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Matthias Bernold

IT'S JUST ONE OF THOSE storms, Deborah Dalton was saying to herself as Hurricane Katrina edged her way closer to Louisiana late August last year. Born and raised in New Orleans, Dalton had been used to the storms that would tear their way through the city.

Like many residents, she had actually come to believe the city walls were invincible. And, like thousands of its populace, she would live through the horrors that would change the way the world understood hurricanes—and the great American empire.

It was Saturday, Aug. 27, 2005. Katrina's coming was blaring on the news. For Dalton, however, it was a normal workday. Besides, she thought, Katrina just might turn around as hurricanes sometimes do, or weaken upon its landfall. But in the meantime, Katrina was picking up speed, sustaining winds of 280 km/hr.

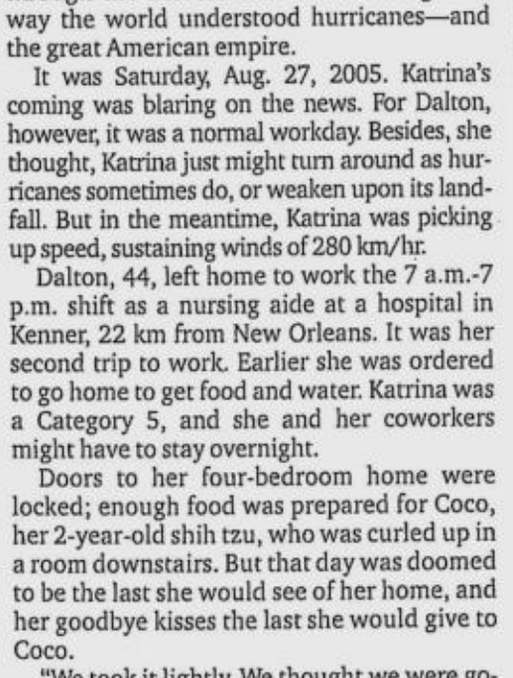
Dalton, 44, left home to work the 7 a.m.-7 p.m. shift as a nursing aide at a hospital in Kenner, 22 km from New Orleans. It was her second trip to work. Earlier she was ordered to go home to get food and water. Katrina was a Category 5, and she and her coworkers might have to stay overnight.

Doors to her four-bedroom home were locked; enough food was prepared for Coco, her 2-year-old shih tzu, who was curled up in a room downstairs. But that day was doomed to be the last she would see of her home, and her goodbye kisses the last she would give to Coco.

"We took it lightly. We thought we were going to get the rains and the winds. We haven't really had a bad storm," Dalton recalled in an interview with fellows from the World Press Institute during the group's visit to Atlanta, Georgia, nearly two months after Katrina.

At the hospital, she said, the personnel was

THE DAY/ C2



SECOND CHANCE. "The city was not prepared. I was not prepared. I'm 44 years old. I'm not looking forward to starting over again."

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3008 Series of 2006

The day Hell bloweth over

From page C1

worried about how to evacuate the patients, some of them on respiratory support. But they had to stay put until given a go-ahead. Still, everyone believed the storm was not coming.

Costly and deadly

They were wrong. Although Katrina weakened to a Category 3 (203 km/hr) when it entered southeast Louisiana and the Louisiana/Mississippi state line, it would prove to be the costliest and one of the deadliest hurricanes in US history.

On Aug. 29, at around 10 a.m., Dalton was awakened by a violent shake from her peers: "Girl, come watch the storm!" Everyone was in front of the TV. The sight from the small tube sent shivers down her spine.

"It looked like a lake! I thought, that couldn't be New Orleans. All we could see was water. And then I saw the tip of my house," she said.

Panic broke out. All they had held dear to their hearts were somewhere in the city. For some, the strong urge to go home to be with their loved ones was tempered by the call of duty and serve the patients. For others, like Dalton, they had little choice but to stay behind or they would drown in the flood.

Over 900 km away from Kenner, Herbert Lee Ebbs, Dalton's husband, was frantically sending text messages to his wife. There were no replies. A long-distance truck driver, he feared for the lives of his new wife and his three children from a previous marriage. He thought they had all perished.

Dalton received the text messages but couldn't send a reply. She had three grownup children, also from previous marriage, to worry about. Phones and power were down. There was no food. While the city was under water, drinking water ran out days ago. She was hungry and dehydrated.

"I'M NOT asking for the government to take care of me. I'm strong; I'm healthy. I can work so I'll be fine. I just need an apartment," said Deborah Dalton as husband Herbert Lee Ebbs, center, and hotel manager Mit Amin, right, look on.

FLOODWATERS from Hurricane Katrina cover a portion of New Orleans, Louisiana, a day after it passed through the city. AP

On top of that, news of the breached levee near the hospital sank hopes of any of them getting out of the building alive.

Looting and car theft

A couple of days later, however, the water receded. That might have been a day of rejoicing, a chance to go home at last as helicopters gradually evacuated patients, but that was when all Hell broke loose. There were lootings, mostly for food and water, although many took the nonessentials as well. The National Guards were called in.

Cars were as valuable as gold. Survivors dying to get away—anywhere but New Orleans—knew cars were their only ticket out. People began breaking car windows.

"It was horrible. It was like a war was going on out there. There was shooting. I prayed to my car—you need to start 'cause I need to get out of here," Dalton said.

On Thursday, Sept. 1, Dalton left New Orleans.

That same day, Ebbs was driving through Missouri, two states away from Louisiana, to pick up a load. But all he could think of was his wife. And he prayed in despair, "Just, please, call me."

Five seconds later he got a beep: "Call your wife, she says she loves you and misses you." They were reunited two days later. Their children were safe. They had evacuated before Katrina ravaged the city.

Months after Katrina's devastation, Dalton was still trying to survive—homeless and jobless. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (Fema), she said, was not helping her at all simply because she was a homeowner.

"I was a taxpayer. I had a home. I had a car. I worked every day of my life. But for the people that never worked, who are dependent on the system—one just bought a Lexus, an $1,800 bedroom set, staying at a $900 apartment, because Fema just issued through [the money]: 'I feel sorry for you and here you go.' That is not fair," she said.

In a recent report in the Houston Chronicle, Fema had doled out through July this year $4.15 billion in housing assistance to nearly 950,000 household applicants. A Fema spokesperson said more than 1.7 million households applied, but many were ineligible because they were getting help from insurance claims or were referred to other programs, according to the report.

Down in Houston, Texas, Dalton said a relocated woman, who was homeless prior to the hurricane, was getting all the help from Fema.

"They had facilities that said give them money, give them money," she said. "She bought a $700 purse. One guy just had a goatee done. Reality hasn't sunk in. These people think they're going to live off the system."

Dalton was on her own. She couldn't even get her insurance companies to work. An insurance company, in fact, sold her car without her knowing it. Dalton only learned of it when a woman called her asking when she could pick up the car. She wanted her house taken down so she could have some peace of mind but her insurance wouldn't do it. She needed a lawyer to get her insurances to do anything. With no money and no job, she didn't know what to do.

Nightmare and mess

She had also been busy contacting her university, where she was a freshman nursing student. She was told the school went under, too, that records were lost, and that she would have to start all over again.

"This is a nightmare. It looks like we have been messed over in all directions," she said.

When Dalton's youngest daughter, 19, revisited their home, she found the walls molding, the roof inside the house, and bugs everywhere. Coco lay dead on the floor.

"I have been praying all these weeks that somebody might have rescued my dog. My kids thought I was going to go back home, get my stuff out of my room and the dog's going to come running to the door. You cannot just go back to New Orleans and pick up where you left off," Dalton said.

The whereabouts of Dalton and Ebbs today is not known. They had promised to stay in touch with the Beverly Hills Inn in Atlanta, Ga, where its manager, Mit Amin, took them in October last year, but they never did. They left the hotel shortly after the interview.

The author was a fellow of The World Press Institute in 2005, during which time she did the interviews and research for this story. E-mail her at ajambora@inquirer. com.ph

Island parish marks fiesta of Our Lady of Peñafrancia

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

THE FIRST AND ONLY ISLAND PARISH OF Our Lady of Peñafrancia, in Barrio Balaton, Lagonoy, Camarines Sur, will celebrate its second fiesta on Sept. 6. The new mission church was elevated to a parish in 2005 by Nueva Caceres Archbishop Leonardo Legaspi.

The parish can be reached by motorized bancas. Only 35 percent of the population are Catholics, and the rest are Aglipayans. Fr. Alex Guimpol is the brave parish priest committed to building a proper church for his parishioners who are mostly farmers and fishermen.

Right now, Masses are celebrated in a temporary chapel made of *nipa* and coco lumber.

Those who wish to help can write Fr. Alex Guimpol c/o Bishop Jose Rojas at Immaculate Conception Parish, PO Box 8824, Concepcion Pequeña, Naga City, or text 0918-6188673.

'Ina' in Metro

Devotees of "Ina" (Our Lady of Peñafrancia) in Metro Manila will hold a Triduum of Masses at 6:30 p.m., Sept. 7-9, at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Bel Air, Makati. Novena will be at 5:30 p.m.

The image of "Ina" will be brought to the church at 2 p.m. by motorcade from the RGC building, 219 Apo Street, Mandaluyong, with a brief stopover at Mandaluyong City Hall and the Medical Center.

At 12 noon on Sept. 10, a special Mass will be offered by devotees from Nabua, Camarines Sur at St. Andrew Parish. At 2 p.m., the miraculous image will be brought by motorcade to the Ayala Bridge where a fluvial procession will begin toward Jones Bridge.

At 5 p.m., a procession of devotees, mostly women, will bring the image to the Manila Cathedral for a concelebrated Mass.

I always find it touching when the Virgin and the Divino Rostro are brought to the Cathedral. With bells ringing and people waiting in anticipation, it is a joyous moment. People are assured that Jesus and Mary are truly there to help them.

Lipa gathering

On Sept. 12, Marian devotees from all over the Philippines will gather once more at the Carmelite Monastery in Lipa for the National Day of Prayer, Preparation and Consecration. On the same day in 1948, Our Lady appeared for the first time to Sister Teresing Castillo, a Carmelite postulant.

Asked who she was when she appeared on the second day, Our Lady told Teresing, "I am thy Mother, my little one."

Sept. 12, the feast of the Holy Name of Mary, has been declared national day of prayer by the Catholic Bishops of the Philippines .

On Sept. 16, 1948 Our Lady told Teresing that a statue be placed where she appeared. On Sept. 26, she declared that she was "Mary Mediatrix of All Grace."

This year, a new Marian organization, Confraternity of Mary, Mediatrix of All Grace, will be launched. Its founder is Fr. Melvin Castro, chancellor and secretary to the bishop of Tarlac.

Other Marian organizations are invited to join the National Movement for Mary working for the approval and official church recognition of the Lipa apparitions. Text Fr. Melvin at 0915-4202191.

'Sagala'

The coffee-table book, "Sagala: The Queen of the Philippines' Festivals", written by Abe Florendo presents the historical background of the Flores de Mayo and the Santacruzan, peculiar practices associated with them—dramatizations with songs and dances, folk influences on liturgies and customs, traditions of the *hermanos* and *hermanas*, related festivals of Maytinis and Sunduan—and Marian devotion in the country.

"Sagala" contains vintage photographs and illustrations dating back to the 1890s, complemented by an exclusive folio of photographs of contemporary *sagalas* such as beauty queens, fashion models, entertainment icons, along with distinguished *hermanos* and *hermanas* wearing the best creations of the Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines.

Book design is by Eduardo Davad and photography by Richard Papa, with additional photos by Alfred Mendoza and Ramon Jeffrey Florendo.

Filipino volunteer

A long-time volunteer in the church where Hollywood stars and celebrities are seen, Daves Aguas, has been designated to do the flowers for the centennial celebration on Sept. 9 of St. Victor's Catholic Church. A solemn High Mass will be celebrated by Cardinal Roger Mahoney.

For several years now, Daves' arrangements, especially during Easter, are a must-see in the archdiocese of Los Angeles. He says, "If I have brought a soul to church because of my flowers, then I have fulfilled a mission." Incidentally, St. Victor, the first African Pope, instituted the celebration of Easter on Sunday.

Values awareness

In this era of globalization, everyone is on the fast lane, each trying to survive physical, mental or emotional pressures. Geraldine Tiongson-Osias is a cross-cultural consultant on personal growth and management development. She specializes in needs assessment and design of learning and training modules. Text 0927-6556298.

TOBY Estrella, Dimples Suchianco and Raul Gerodias

IMELDA Abadilla-Brown, Augusto Villanueva and Kengo Takase

Law firm inaugurates new offices

THE OFFICES OF THE GERODIAS Suchianco Estrella (GSE) Law Firm at the Drake and Columbus Function Rooms of the Discovery Suites in Ortigas Center, Pasig City were recently blessed and formally inaugurated.

The firm also used the event as an opportunity to give thanks for its achievements and growth in only six months.

It treated friends and clients from diverse fields (information technology, telecommunication, manufacturing, realty, construction, energy and mining, media, advertising, and entertainment, among others) to a sumptuous buffet that included roast calf and *lechon*, accompanied by different wines.

Managing partner Raul G. Gerodias expressed his gratitude as he recalled the company's humble beginnings. Highlight of the event was a short audio-visual presentation introducing the firm's lawyers and its vision.

The GSE Law Firm provides a broad and integrated range of services, both domestic and cross-jurisdictional laws, in the fields of corporate, taxation, litigation, labor and immigration laws.

Founding partners Gerodias, Dimples Nicolas-Suchianco and Toby A. Estrella have years of experience as law practitioners.

Other lawyers of the law firm are Rhonda P. Miranda, Che-lin G. Mascardo, Grace Vilchez-Custodio, Joey A. Ramos, Gem L. Sandoval, Jan T. Aliling, and Loy Saldaña-de Leon.

GSE Law Firm's offices are at Suite 2404 Discovery Center, 25 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Visit www.GSElawfirm.com

PETER Suchianco, PMS Secretary Arthur Yap, Estrella, Erwin and Annie Maceda, and Marvie Young-Lim

JOEY Ramos, Jan Aliling, Che-lin Mascardo, Grace Custodio, Suchianco, Gerodias, Gem Sandoval, Loy de Leon and Rhonda Miranda

Residences go Indian for 4th anniversary

FRASER PLACE SERviced Residences in Makati celebrated recently its fourth anniversary.

Consisting of twin towers, Fraser Place Manila is a posh home for foreign businessmen and executives and their families.

Fraser hosted a party inspired by Bombay Nights, transforming the garden deck into a virtual Bollywood with the walls and ceiling decorated with colorful Indian scarves and tapestry. Kashmir Restaurant served authentic dishes from the Indian subcontinent.

Fraser Place's staff, wearing Indian-inspired outfits, welcomed over 150 guests including corporate partners, travel bookers and residents.

Christopher Bong, Fraser's GM, thanked friends and clients and presented a special award and prize to Fraser Place's longest staying guest, Ong Che Liong.

The following day, Fraser Place sponsored cocktails. It also sponsored a special screening of "X-Men 3" for children under the care of Tuloy Foundation.

Fraser Serviced Residences are also in Bangkok, Thailand; Glasgow, Scotland; London, England; Paris, France; Seoul, South Korea; Shenzhen, China; and Singapore.

40 poor students get college scholarships

THE KC DE VENECIA FOUNDATION IS sending 40 deserving students from poor families in Metro Manila to college.

KC, the youngest daughter of Speaker Jose de Venecia and wife Gina, died in a fire that gutted their home in Dasmariñas Village in 2004. The De Venecia family set up the foundation in her memory.

Gina de Venecia and her son Christopher, president of the KC de Venecia Foundation, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Pathways to Higher Education, a nonprofit organization that helps poor college students, which guaranteed 40 scholarships.

Pathways chose the first scholars.

The MOU was signed at the Ateneo de Manila University. Present were KC's family and friends. Pathways was represented by founder Harvey Keh, acting director Solvie Nubla, and chair and Ateneo president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres.

Pathways to Higher Education was established in 2002 as a new education development program under the office of the president of Ateneo. It was founded by Keh, an enterprising young man, who studied Psychology at the university and is now a fellow at the Asian Institute of Management in Building Leadership.

The KC de Venecia Foundation is composed of KC's family and friends. Mom Gina is CEO. KC's sister, Carissa Cruz Evangelista, is also in the foundation while cousin lawyer Ernest Maceda is corporate secretary.

Members of the board of trustees are KC's brother Ipe Cruz; cousins Jodel Ampil, JM Nakpil, Camella Isabel de Venecia, Maria Fredelyn Sta. Maria, and Patricia Claire Perez; and best friend Harvey Alumisin.

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SMART 3G: OPPORTUNITIES IN EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

Mr. Manuel V. Pangilinan enlightens the forum on the power of SMART 3G.

In the recently held forum of The Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX), home to the country's top financial executives, SMART and PLDT Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan shared the forthcoming impact of the Third Generation Digital Network or SMART 3G to the financial world, the business community, the home, and ultimately the nation as a whole.

Mr. Pangilinan outlined a host of applications and services SMART 3G presently offers its subscribers from video calls, to surfing the worldwide web, to watching television shows, answering e-mail, playing games, and even viewing real time traffic situationers in major highways. Underscoring the role of emerging technologies in driving national progress, Mr. Pangilinan said that SMART is focused and working hard to bring the cost of 3G to levels within everybody's reach.

The power and efficiency of SMART 3G was further emphasized through a 4-way video conference demo between Mr. Manny Pangilinan; Mr. Bong Mojica, SMART's Wireless Consumer Division Head; Mr. Butch Jimenez, PLDT Retail Business Head; and Ms. Julie Carceller, SMART's Department Head for Key Relations Management Group.

As enticing as it is to experience the heights of SMART 3G, Mr. Pangilinan stressed a vital point: "We are mindful that convergence, and the seduction of new technologies, should not be pursued simply for the sake of their elegance. At the end of the day, convergence isn't about technology as such. It is about solutions that end users can use and benefit from... that make everyday life, and the functions of business, easier."

The FINEX Officers:

Mr. Victor Y. Lim Jr., former FINEX President; Mr. Peter L. Wallace, President of Wallace Business Forum; Mr. Dave L. Balangue, current FINEX President; Mr. Manuel V. Pangilinan, PLDT and SMART Chairman; Mr. Alberto Del Rosario, former Philippine Ambassador to the United States; Mr. Antonio A. Lopez,Chief Commercial Officer of Multimedia Telephony, Inc. and Mr. Antonilo D. Mauricio, Managing Director of Interpacific United Strategies Inc.

DAHIL SMART TAYO

Making everyday life easier

YOUNG lovers Bryan Prieto and Jeanine Buenaventura

HANDSOME new photographer Diether Ocampo and Keren Pascual

CHARITABLE royalty Andrea Casiraghi

FUN couple Sigalit and Senai Djemal

AMADE-VIRLANIE Foundation head Dominique Lemay and Carol Lucas of the French Embassy

Let's hear it for the boys

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

AMID THE HOOPLA OVER my 25th Assumption High School homecoming in October, I have been reminiscing about all my milestones from the '80s. It was a decade of seemingly monumental challenges and fulfilling accomplishments, both for our country as well as for me personally.

Motherhood came to me in the '80s. Right in the midst of the decade, I became a single mom to my son, **Bryan**, who is turning 21 in a couple of weeks. Since I was quite a young mother, Bryan and I developed a nontraditional parent-child relationship—one not based on stern discipline and authority but on love and compassion. Early on, he knew his mom was not a typical parent but a cool, almost radical one.

Becoming a mother for the first time is such a joyous experience. My life and priorities changed dramatically. No longer would I just hang with friends or mindlessly kill time. Instead, my days were occupied by the Gymboree Play Center and then the Montessori preschool. Fast-forward to 2006, and I am back again in Gymboree, but this time around with my little 1-year-old **Athena**.

For my son's big milestone of "becoming legal," at least for entrance to casinos, my husband **Dennis** and I threw him a rave dinner party at the Embassy Club of the Fort. As in all my theme parties, I relied on the creative juices of brilliant couple **Mye** and **Norman Cruz** of AdWorks (tel. 6880085 or e-mail adworksgrfx@yahoo.com), a versatile graphics company that does invitations, giveaways, wedding stuff and a whole lot more.

CANADIAN friend Bob Mccubbing and Leah Puyat

My son is turning 21, Diether has a charity, and Andrea of Monaco is helping Pinoy street urchins. Look at what these young handsome men can do now that they're of legal age!

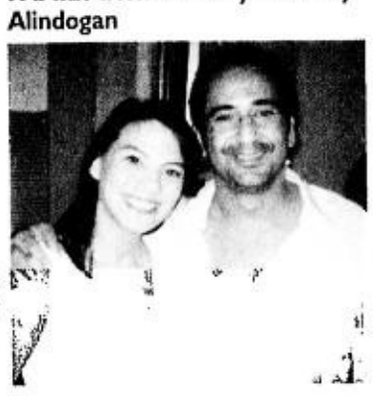
COCA-COLA Team with marketing head Chinky Alcedo in the center with KIDS Foundation head Diether Ocampo

WHITE gang Elbert and Liza Cuenca and Mons and Sander Tantoco

COKE Light designers Rhett Eala, Patrice Ramos Diaz and Rajo Laurel

FAMILY friends Nonoy and Cory Alindogan

HAPPY couple Isabel and Frankie Barandiaran


JUST friends Pixie Olivares and Jacques Dupasquier

VIRLANIE directors Marietta Santos and Josine Elizalde

GENEROUS couple Deeda and Tono Versoza

MANILA Pen royal couple Marilou and David Batchelor

BIRTHDAY friends Tonichi Nocom, Ronald Pineda, Randy Ortiz and Henri Calayag

Mye and Norman came up with metallic, psychedelic graphics with rave dancing silhouettes for Bryan's party. The execution was a marked departure from the amazing concept and colors they came up with for Athena's Bollywood bash earlier this year, which just shows the couple's creative range. Additionally, they came up with fun giveaways: playing cards and casino chips with special, themed packaging. I also included a neon-lit, battery-operated fan, courtesy of Gift Gate grand dame, **Virgie Ramos**.

The cuisine at the Embassy Club has undergone a refreshing renovation—its new, cozier ambiance is not too clubby for the more mature taste. Some of the guests were having their first Embassy experience and were quite pleased. Embassy owner and INQUIRER Super! brains **Tim Yap** (who is also adding another feather in his cap as a Shanghai actor) arranged a delicious menu while the coolest DJ music played.

Reinforcing the "barely legal" theme, **Penk Ching** created a two-layer cake that served as a great centerpiece. If I may digress, Penk does not only make the most amazing cakes, but she also "gives back" through an annual charity badminton tournament. At this year's opening, I managed to crawl out of bed and arrive in time for the 9 a.m. ceremonial toast. But sleep is unimportant when charity is involved.

Meanwhile, back at Embassy, more '80s beats could be heard blasting from the Club section. That evening happened to be the multiple birthday celebrations of four talented gay friends—hair- and makeup stylist **Henri Calayag**, F&H owner **Ronald Pineda** and designers **Randy Ortiz** and **Tonichi Nocom**.

Which makes me think of another digression! Whatever other opinion writers may think about gay people, I personally am delighted with the diversity they bring to the world and truly respect their choice of gender. And they can dance so well! Fab designer **Rajo Laurel** is my dancing partner. He has the moves to spin me around and get into the groove!

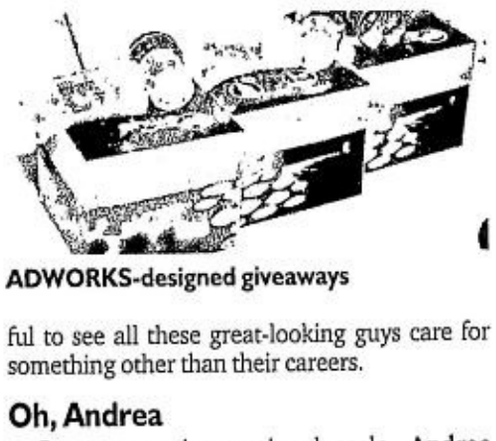
Coke Light

At the Coca-Cola Light dinner and fashion show, Rajo and I were dancing in the main dining hall inside the Rockwell Tent. PR guru **Keren Pascual** conceptualized a unique, fashion runway flanked by a formal dining setup, and the brilliant team of **Robbie Carmona** created a crisscross runaway and directed a superb show.

In keeping with the great taste, no calories theme, **Florabel Co**, owner-chef of Florabel (tel. 6387527), prepared a sinfully rich, guilt-free menu of grilled Portobello mushrooms, tiger prawns and baked chicken. Located at the ground floor of The Podium, Florabel serves South Beach-inspired cuisine and even delivers daily meals for those on a diet. It was all great but the dessert of flourless, sugar-free, decadent-chocolate, low-fat, Ricotta cheesecake was especially divine!

The Coke Light fashion show was titled "Covet: Luscious Chic, No Doubt," and featured the latest, all-white designs of Rajo Laurel, **Patrice Ramos-Diaz** and **Rhett Eala**. Also featured for the first time, gorgeous actor **Diether Ocampo** got to show off his photographic creativity with an exhibit called "Caught: Full Access, No Rules." His photos depict his show-biz friends in a most candid manner.

This multitalented actor and rock singer also possesses a heart of gold locked inside his Adonis chest. That evening, Coke Light gave a donation to K.I.D.S. Foundation, a charity program Diether set up to help homeless children. With his chiseled looks, who can refuse when he asks for generous donations? It's wonderful to see all these great-looking guys care for something other than their careers.


ADWORKS-designed giveaways

STUNNING beauty Miriam Quiambao

Oh, Andrea

On a more international scale, **Andrea Casiraghi**, son of Princess Caroline, paid us the honor of a visit quite recently. The dashing young man visited the Amade-Virlanie Foundation, spending a week touring the various Virlanie homes and the depressed areas of Tondo and Payatas as well as bringing his focus and attention to the plight of abused and underprivileged children.

In one of his speeches, he said he has been truly touched by the children and is dedicated to give his continuous support. He noted no amount of help is too small. With his gorgeous appeal, everyone will surely follow his lead.

It's amazing to see what our children can grow into, whether one is a charitable royal or a caring actor or a talented designer or even just a young man, finishing his last year of college, on the verge of something good, hopefully even something great, now that he is "legal."

E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

ASSUMPTION HS '81 Tessa Alindogan, Sea Princess, Rosette Benedicto and Liza Trinidad

JUST Shop's Jenni Epperson, Cowboy Santos and Nannette de Leon

FAIRIES show off their muscles and wings at the Pride Parade in Montreal.

OUT THERE. Tennis great Martina Navratilova is guest of honor at Outgames opening.

SWEDISH athletes in drag at the Outgames

Gay games, 'out' sports

By Anna Leah Sarabia
Contributor

We will never be equal or free if we do not accept that others are as well. I am speaking about our individual and collective responsibility to rise up and denounce all forms of discrimination. I am speaking about respect, justice, peace and brotherhood.

—Gerald Tremblay,
Mayor of Montreal

SPORTS, CULTURE AND HUman rights. Ordinarily, these would be an incongruous combination. But for two weeks in July in Montreal, this was life. And one did not even have to be gay or lesbian to enjoy it.

The first series of activities began with the biggest gathering of international LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex) human rights activists ever: over 1,500 from 108 countries. These included gays from Iran (where being one is punishable by execution or life imprisonment); and those who called themselves "exiles of love" because their marriages and equal rights were not recognized in their own countries, like the United States. And there were, too, the LGBT parliamentarians and government officials of Austria, Germany, Mexico, Canada, Argentina and Brazil.

From the Philippines, there were five of us who made presentations in the workshops. Dr. Mira Ofreneo, president of Clic and professor of psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University, showed a full room a summary of her dissertation on same-sex domestic violence, while I reviewed the strategies that LGBT people in our country have struggled to mainstream equal rights. I was impressed at how Asian-American parents were training PTAs in California schools how to accept their non-straight children, and how the activists from Quebec were commissioned by their government to train the entire police force how to deal with hate crimes and gender sensitivity.

I found it ironic that four of the five states/countries where same-sex marriage was first legalized were among the very religious or Catholic: Spain, Canada (specially Quebec), Belgium and Switzerland. Of course, conservative politicians continue to play the anti-gay card to generate votes from right-wing sectors. But, at least in Canada, people have assured us there is no turning back.

At the closing of the conference, Martina Navratilova—the city's honored guest who also opened the 1st World Outgames—even quipped: "You can't go back, you have to move forward... Unless you are in the dragon boat!"

Like most LGBT people everywhere, Martina experienced isolation and discrimination at various times in her life. Even at the height of her career, the greatest tennis player in the world—male or female—lost millions of dollars in endorsements after she came out as a lesbian. But, she said, she would not have had it otherwise. One cannot buy dignity and self-respect. Learning how to share her resources and reputation, Martina has established a credit card line—the rainbow card—which gives a percentage of all profits to LGBTI establishments for each transaction.

At the moment, Montreal is the planet's LGBT home base. The outgames brings 12,000 international athletes and visitors, some of whom will even take advantage of Canada's recognition of same-sex marriages, and schedule their weddings, too.

For now, the first city in North America to be designated by Unesco as city of design is a safe and joyful place to be for people like us. Diver-cite is the key word in Montreal, where being different and diverse is the coolest thing! Thank you from all of us who have had these few days to be the best we could be, together.

ALLELUIA, it's raining men! The Belgians come out with umbrellas.

Montreal plays host to first Olympics of 'dykes,' 'limpwrists' and 'pansies'—take that, Justice Cruz

ALL SMILES. The author (right) with Anaraa

SAME-SEX grooms on parade

PSYCHOLOGIST Mira Ofreneo of Can't Live in the Closet (second from left), MP Ulrike Lunacek of the Austrian Parliament, with lesbian doctors, educators and lawyers at the Palais des Congres in Montreal

MONTREAL Mayor Gerald Tremblay and the city's chief of police at Pride Parade

FRENCH dad and son bonding at the Outgames opening...

...as are Toronto-based Pinay mom Rose and Ayona.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

TUAZON 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Mario and **Evelyn Alejar Tuazon**, California residents for 40 years, were feted on their ruby anniversary by their children **Henry** (with his wife **Anh**), **Sue** and **Ricky**. A Hawaiian-motif lunch party was held at the Odyssey Restaurant in Granada Hills, California, attended by some 100 guests.

DEE DEBUT

Ma. Katrina Sumulong Dee, daughter of businessman **Dennis** and **Jasmin Dee**, will celebrate her 18th birthday on Sept. 9 at the Discovery Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. She is a freshman at the University of Asia and the Pacific taking up information technology.

ALQUIROS DEBUT

Camille Alquiros, a sophomore BS HRM student of La Salle-St. Benilde Manila, eldest daughter of **Guilly** and **Monet** (née Aquino) **Alquiros**, will celebrate her 18th birthday on Aug. 31, 6 p.m., at Gilligan Island, Timog, QC. **Irene Lopez** made her gown, while **Byng Aquino** baked the cake.

CALILUNG DEBUT

Marriane Calilung, daughter of **Marlon** and **Aniceta Calilung**, will celebrate her 18th birthday on Sept. 9 at the Palmer Garden in BF Homes Parañaque. Theme of the event is "Fashionista Night." She will wear a bouffant gown with a halter top in two-toned satin and organza in monochromatic hues from purple to pink, encrusted with crystals and glass beads. The gown and flower arrangements are by **Junel Lim Gallon**.

CHUA-CABALU

Dr. **Jon Robert Chua**, son of **Chua Chun Hong** and **Emely Chua**, will wed **Gjette Cabalu**, daughter of **Eduardo Sr.** and **Julieta Cabalu**, on Oct. 1 at St. Peter the Apostle Church. Reception will follow at the Ramon Magsaysay Center. Coordinator is **Revy Ann Blanco**.

CHU DEBUT

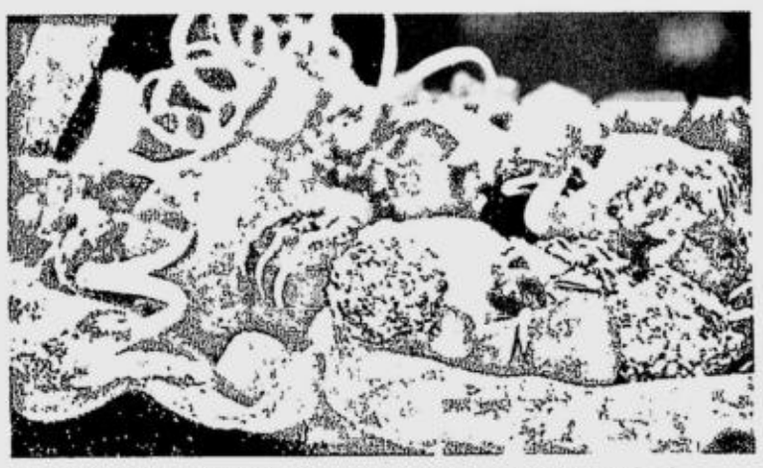
Katrina Krizzel Y. Chu will celebrate her 18th birthday on Aug. 26 at the Grand Palazzo Royale in Angeles City. Her gown, designed by **Marlon Tuazon**, is two-toned pink satin with frosted organza corset top and layered skirt, adorned with intricate Swarovski beadwork.

RIVERA DEBUT

Melissa Rochelle Rivera, daughter of Silvino Jr. and Ruby (deceased) Rivera, will celebrate her birthday on Sept. 1 at Star Mountain Hotel, Baguio. She will be escorted by Devon Rei Nariz. The debutante will wear a bouffant gown with rhinestones and cut beads by Eggy Suguitan.

CANOZA DEBUT

Lou Angelique Canoza, daughter of engineer **Florencio Jr.** and **Elenita Canoza** of San Pedro, Laguna, celebrated her 18th birthday recently at Hotel Rembrandt in Quezon City. The debutante's gown was designed and executed by **Paul Rex Mateo** of The Wedding Day.



CHOCOLATE truffles, handmade chocolates rolled in crushed almonds

Dessert buffet at Wedding Expo

HIZON'S CATERING WILL showcase its Grand Dessert Buffet at the 9th Wedding Expo of the Philippines, Sept. 2-3, at the Philippine International Convention Center Forum, Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex, Roxas Boulevard.

The buffet will include blueberry crème brulée, mango panacotta, tiramisu, chocolate and vanilla mousse, chocolate truffles, and fresh fruits and pastries in chocolate fondue fountain.

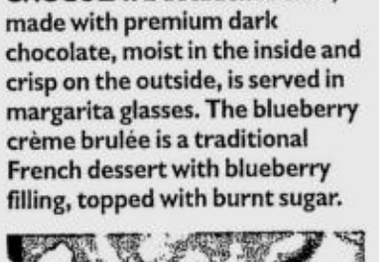
Event producer is Themes & Motifs—The Special Events Co. Robert Blancaflor of 1816 Flowers and Event Styling is the event stylist.

The expo will offer ideas, choices, discounts, and giveaways. Major sponsors include Wedding Essentials Magazine with My WeddingNetwork.com. Paper Elegance World-class Invitations and T&M Gifts are event partners.

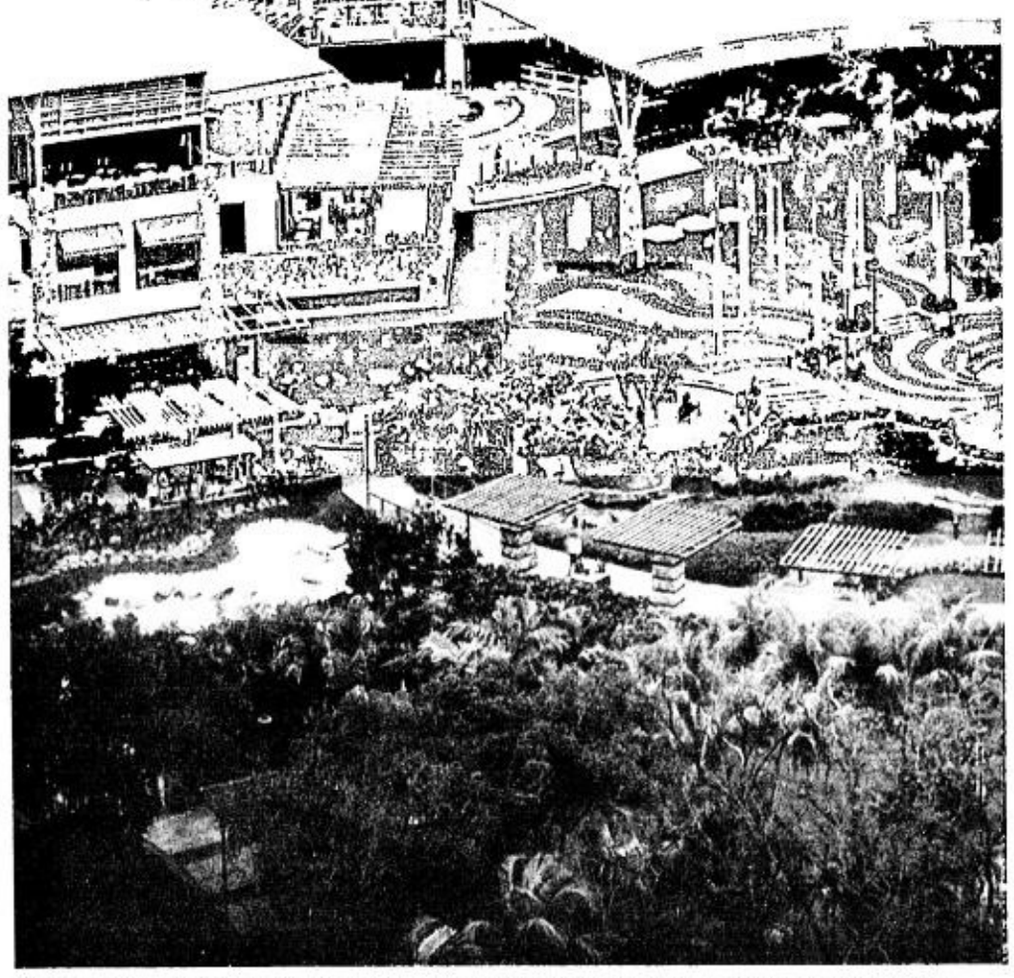
For free admission, pre-register online at www.themesnmotifs.com. Visit Themes & Motifs Resource Center, Makati Shangri-La or call 3719783 or 8189794.

CHOCOLATE decadence cake, made with premium dark chocolate, moist in the inside and crisp on the outside, is served in margarita glasses. The blueberry crème brulée is a traditional French dessert with blueberry filling, topped with burnt sugar.

IN SHOT glass: dark chocolate mousse. In margarita glass: chocolate truffles



STRAWBERRIES, grapes, bananas, melons, mallows and apples dipped in melted white or dark chocolate cascading down a 4.5-ft tall chocolate fountain



THE AWARD-WINNING Greenbelt, one of three Ayala malls participating in the tourism drive, is expected to charm fiercely committed shopaholics.

TOURISM Secretary Joseph H. Durano says shopping is now a tourist attraction. Seated to his left are Eduardo Ponce of SM, Charmaine Bauzon and Myrna Fernandez of the Ayala malls, and Joselito Santos of Ortigas and Co. Limited Partnership.

Retail therapy big come-on for tourists

STORY ON PAGE D4

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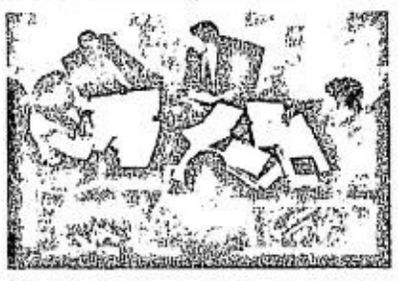

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Boston, spring of hope and winter of despair

By Antonio M. Claparols
Contributor

IN CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, WE were experiencing one of the heaviest rainfalls ever.

The spring of hope had turned into a winter of despair. The whole of New England was literally underwater as all the rivers of the Merrimac had overflowed, delaying flights, grounding traffic and leaving floodwaters everywhere.

A state of emergency had been declared—a clear sign of the effects of global warming and climate change.

Thank God, the beauty of Boston and its intellectual ambiance remained.

We strolled through Quincy Market and the Boston Gardens, as well as the campuses of Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Harvard has purchased a parcel of land in Alison to put up an organic farm, and has established the environment as a major part of its curriculum.

Boston is replete with history, being the first settlement in the New World.

The rambles of Commonwealth Avenue and the quaint streets of Newberry and Massachusetts Avenue provide an inkling of its glorious past. But Copley Square and the old churches beside the modern John Hancock building illustrate how the old and the new can coexist.

Meanwhile, the Boston Common and the Gardens fill the city center—including Beacon Hill where government offices are based—with greenery.

Boston is best during the fall, when the trees show off their multicolored splendor. It's a sight that, to me, is the most beautiful in the world.

Living in Boston will rejuvenate anyone. The diversity of people from all over the world and the many languages spoken make the city one big classroom.

They say that if you don't like the weather, just wait a while for it to change.

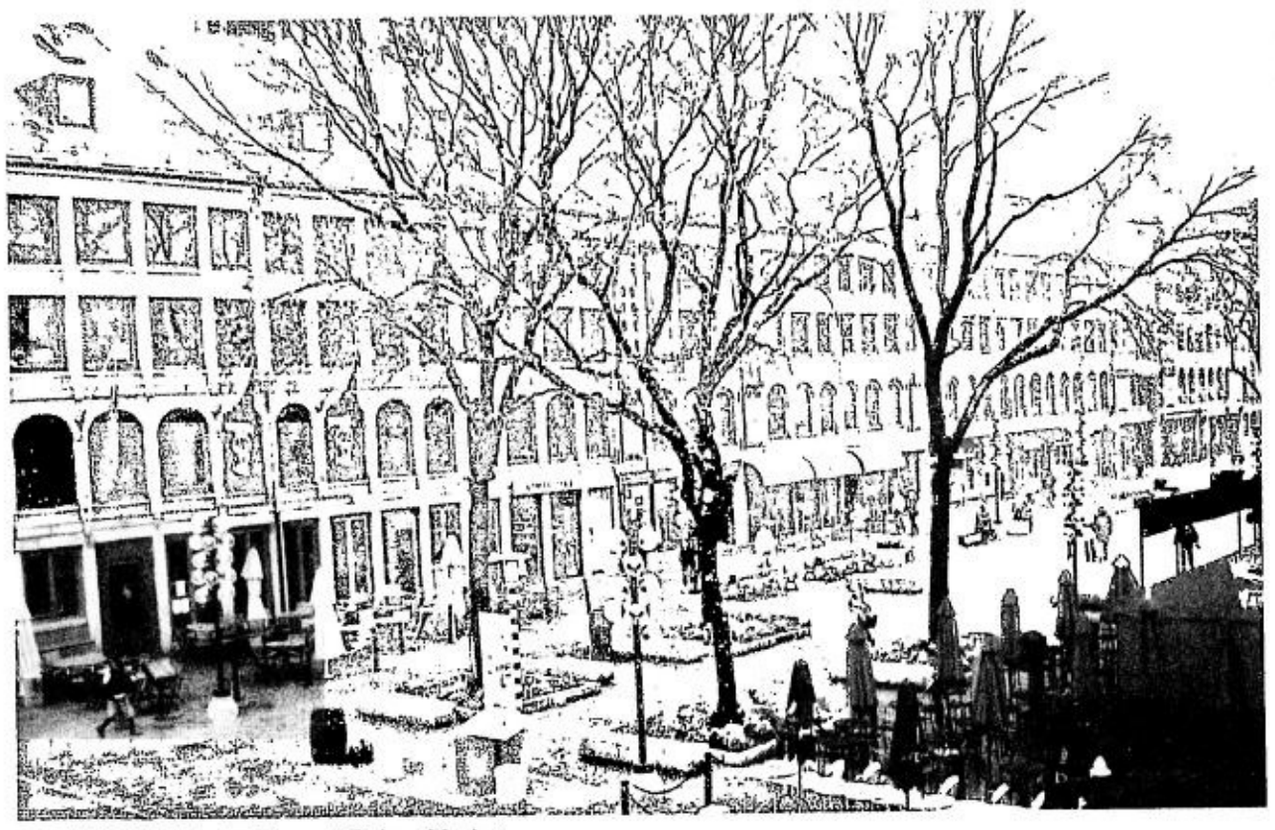
The sun comes out and disappears, followed by a slight drizzle. You hunker down for the long cold winter, and then Indian summer allows you to enjoy the last of the sunny days.

When winter comes, the first flurries are a sight to cheer.

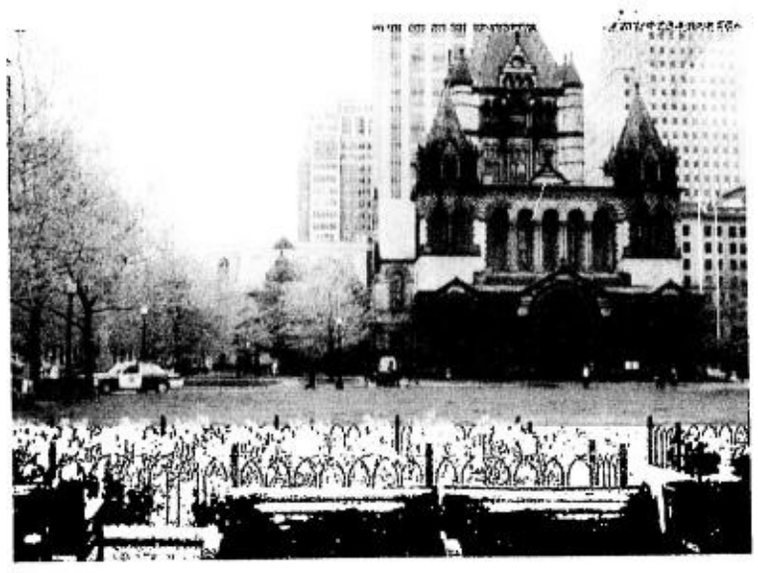
Center of culture

Oh, yes, I love Boston.

A renowned center of culture and learning, Boston supports art museums, theaters, symphony orchestras and 50 colleges and universities.



FANEUIL Hall Market Place at Quincy Market



COPLEY Square, Boston Trinity Church

Cambridge Square and its environs make up an ethnically rich community of tightly knit neighborhoods and academic institutions.

The Freedom Trail is a two-and-a-half-mile walking tour of 16 historic buildings, sites and monuments that documents Boston's remarkable contribution to US history. Marked by a conspicuous red line, the trail winds past the Park Street Church, the Granary Burying Ground (where Samuel Adams and John Hancock are buried), the Old State House and the Old North Church, the Charlestown Navy Yard with Old Ironsides...

It is like walking through time.

And the Charles River that separates Boston from Cambridge—its waters are clean, and the fish caught from it make a delicious meal.

> Boston is best during the fall, when the trees show off their multicolored splendor. It's the most beautiful sight in the world

Energy matters

But as we toured the city that was my home for three years, I found that the ISIS-Institute of Science in Society had published its 2006 energy report discussing the future of energy should the planet survive, the use of renewable energy vis-a-vis oil, coal and dirty fossil fuels, as well as biofuels, ethanol, solar and wind power, and waste.

At the same time, oil prices had reached another record high. Even worse, President George W. Bush had announced the deployment of 6,000 troops to the border of Mexico.

For the protection of Fortress America? What has happened to the land of the free and the home of the brave? What has happened to the land founded by immigrants?

The world has indeed changed and will never be the same.

Traveling the way it was—as in the book written by James Michener, "The Drifters," about the empty pristine beaches of Mozambique—is no more.

Just the same, the beauty of the Charles River brought me joy—and yet the New England states were underwater!

Indigenous peoples

On May 15, the permanent forum on indigenous peoples' rights began at the United Nations. The keynote address was delivered by Victoria Tuali-Corpuz, a Kankaney from Baguio City. She highlighted the many forums that had led to this day, when the assembly will finally grant the social rights of indigenous peoples—a right long overdue. (Viva Evo Morales of Bolivia!)

Even as Corpuz was delivering her address, the extractive industries of mining and logging were continuing to wreak havoc on our beautiful land. (Think of the mining activities in Bicol that are displacing people and destroying the tourism industry in Donsol, Sorsogon, home of the famed whale shark, and in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte.)

More than that, environmentalists are being killed. And up north in the Bering Sea, the ice is melting.

Global warming has taken center stage, as noted by Time magazine and other publications. This is no longer a joke; it is a clear and present danger to humankind.

Crazy but true: Gone are the spring flowers, destroyed by the rains, gone are the days when one could tell spring from summer, winter and fall. They seem to all come at the same time.

Yet the Kyoto Climate Change Protocol has neither been ratified by our government nor signed by the US government. Have the effects of "Katrina" and "Rita" been forgotten so soon?

Let us not forget: We have only one Boston, and only one world.

The author is the president of the Ecological Society of the Philippines.

TRAVELBRIEFS

ANDREA Mastellone has been named new general manager of Traders Hotel Manila. The announcement was made by New Riviera Hotel Development Company Inc., owners of the 302-room Roxas Boulevard property, and the management company Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts. The 39-year-old Italian was formerly general manager of the Traders Hotel Chennai in India. Visit www.tradershotels.com.

New in-flight mag

Cebu Pacific is launching its own in-flight magazine in the last quarter of this year. The publication, produced by Ink Publishing (Ink), is meant to be hip, fun and smart. The release of the magazine coincides with the airline's re-fleeting and expansion program. CEB opened recently its Laoag and Dipolog routes and launched the Legazpi service. Ink also publishes CNBC European Business magazine and CNN's bi-monthly travel magazine, CNN Traveller and CNN Traveller Asia Pacific.

Budget fare

The Singapore Tourism Board-Philippines (STB-P) welcomes the re-entry of Cebu Pacific Air (CEB) into Singapore starting Aug. 31. Filipinos will enjoy CEB's "Go" fares starting at P2,499 one-way, excluding surcharges and taxes.

To celebrate the event, STB-P will give every Cebu Pacific passenger from Manila Aug. 31-Sept. 6 one free Uniquely Singapore document holder. Call 8130946 or check out visitsingapore.com

Family special

The Mabuhay Manor offers the Family Weekend Special. An overnight stay in a Deluxe Room for a family of four, two adults and two children aged below 7 is available for P2,299. The Family Weekend Special includes a complimentary buffet breakfast for two, complimentary use of the swimming pool, free three-hour use of the Business Center, welcome drinks and complimentary airport pick-up.

The Mabuhay Manor is on FB Harrison cor. Ortigas Streets, Pasay City. Call 7022700 to 04, fax 6389255 to 56. E-mail reservations@legendhotels.com.ph or visit www.mabuhaymanor.com.ph

VINTAGE UNIFORMS
Cathay Pacific will greet its valued passengers with a smile, superb service and a spectacle of vintage uniforms in the "Walking on Air" show until December in celebration of the airline's 60th anniversary.

Planning to be a long-distance mom

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

I've been so unlucky in love since I was very young. When I reached 35 and still loveless, I joined an Internet dating service in the hope of meeting a foreigner.

After two months, a retired American wrote to me, saying he was interested in me. He came to Manila twice and began calling me regularly.

From the start, he told me he was unable to have children and, at his age, he did not wish to have any. I went along with his decision.

After eight months, I was able to go to the United States to get married. He is nice to me and our life is ok. The only thing missing is a child.

So I begged him to let me undergo artificial insemination. The process is very expensive. He said yes and we're saving for it.

But he said I had to give birth in the Philippines and I could stay in the country for more than a year. He said I could not bring the child to the US since he had nothing to do with it.

My sister has agreed to take care of the baby, if I should have one, and I can come home often to visit.

My problem is, am I making the right decision in wanting to have a child? Will he later hate me for abandoning him and not taking him to the US?

ANN

You entered this relationship as a mature woman but were your eyes shut wide? From the very start your husband has been very up-front and honest with you, declaring "No children!" And you agreed.

Now, despite bending backward and agreeing to pay for the very expensive procedure, you can't blame him for not wanting this kid in his life—much less have him in the US.

Bottom line—you want it, you go it alone.

If you are going to leave this child in the Philippines after birth—and it doesn't matter if the caretaker is a blood relative—what's the point in having him if you won't share yourself 100 percent anyway?

You're asking if your child will hate you for abandoning him at birth? He will definitely not call it abandonment because, as sure as the sun will rise the next day, you will probably compensate for your physical absence by drowning him in gifts and anything money can buy to make his life very comfortable, long-distance phone calls and yearly visits.

What you will possibly accomplish is spoil him rotten.

If you want to become a mother, be one not only in name and but also in deed. With all the craziness going on in the world, you should think of nurturing this new human being to be honest, loving, responsible and caring. You cannot do that by remote control.

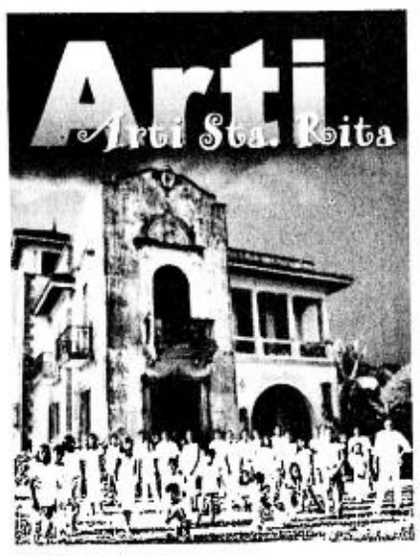
He should feel that he can easily reach you when he needs to be comforted, hugged, consoled or cheered. He'd want to be beside the person he can emulate.

Having a child is a world away from just having the house you have wished for all your life; that you can visit and take care of whenever you want. You can be an absentee owner without guilt.

But an absentee mother to a vulnerable child? Hmmm....

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

Kapampangan delicacies in fundraiser



THE CENTRO CATOLICO DE Bacolor is organizing Manyaman Pamangan Kapampangan, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Aug. 27, at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

The event is a fundraiser for the rehabilitation of the Bacolor parish church, which remains half-buried in *lahar* from the eruption of Mount Pinatubo.

The event is probably the first of its kind in Metro Manila. It will feature authentic Kapampangan food from Everybody's Café, Razon's, Essel Bakeline and La Moderna Bakery, among others. Other exhibitors will be selling dishes derived from family recipes and traditional delicacies from Cabalantian, Guagua, San Fernando and Angeles.

The venue is arranged with eating in mind, allowing guests to walk around and sample delicacies or sit down for a meal. Takeout items are also available. Though food will be the focus, as the name suggests, the bazaar will also have Pampanga arts and crafts, including the traditional Christmas lanterns of San Fernando.

Visitors will also be entertained by Pampanga's best community theater group, the Arti Sta. Rita. The group will perform traditional folk songs as visitors enjoy the various delicacies.

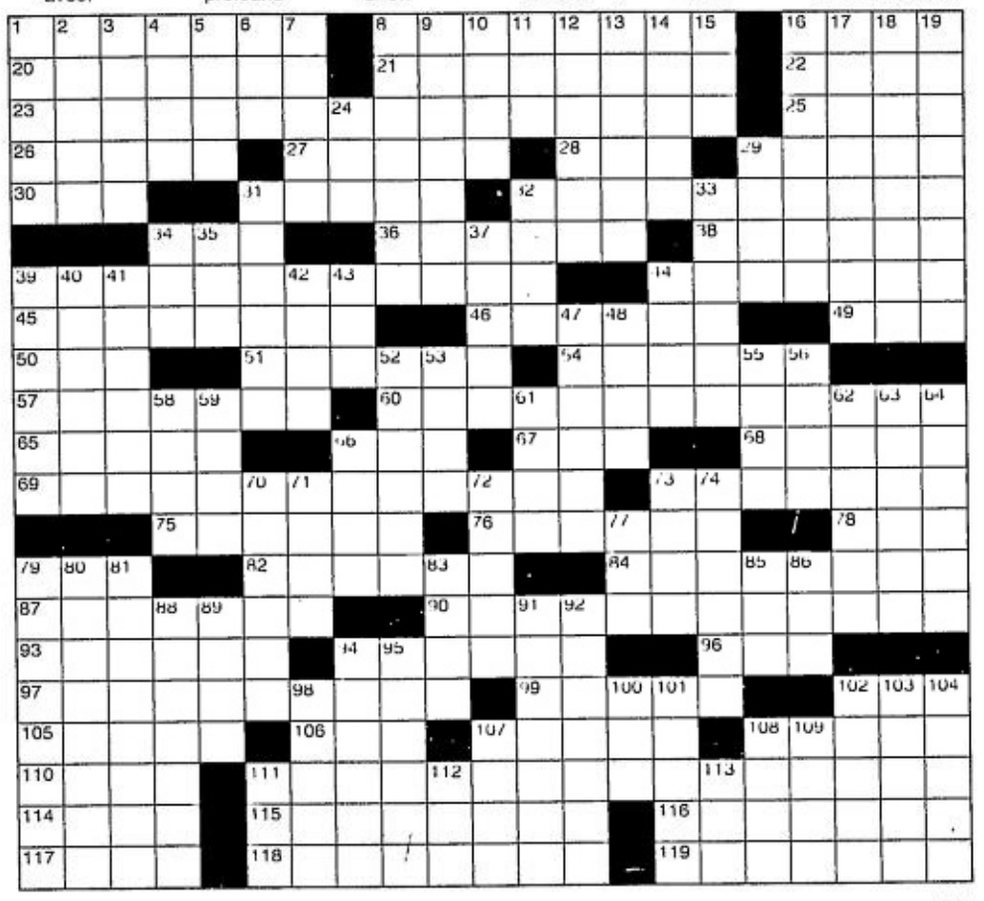
The event is expected to be an enjoyable family day and an occasion for reunions of Kapampangans.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — **SUPPLIES**

ACROSS
1 Social level
8 Chief support
16 Nero's 402
20 Spaghetti sauce herb
21 Never
22 Soccer star Mia
23 Laptop
25 Quark locale
26 Pierces
27 Sierra — (African country)
28 Pot's partner
29 Desert plant
30 Intelligencer
31 Pop singer Taylor —
32 Cocktail of Kahlua and vodka
34 — -fi flick
36 Avaricious desires
38 Floor layers
39 Fishy topping for canapes
44 Collie's littler look-alike
45 Driver of stubborn beasts
46 Mysterious knowledge
49 They cross aves.
50 Sch. support group
51 Ski resort vehicle
54 Dresses with flares
57 Brings forth
60 Dictator
65 Summer show, often
66 Spanish Mrs.
67 "I wonder ..."
68 Bayer brand
69 Stick in a makeup bag
73 Claim no knowledge of
75 Antique photos
76 Tomboy
78 Well-liked prez?
79 Mr., in Bombay
82 French president's palace
84 Acquired the film rights to
87 Sunbather's demarcation
90 People with routine desk jobs
93 In the Rolodex, e.g.
94 Grow more profound
96 "— Woman"
97 Inheritable indicator of identity and ancestry
99 Trial blast that produces a mushroom cloud
102 — -pitch softball
105 "— Irish Rose" (old Broadway play)
106 Put a stop to
107 Milk farm
108 Flower part
110 Hartford loc.
111 Temporary coverage contracts until formal policies are issued
114 Enormous
115 Woodland rodents
116 Prehistoric period
117 Slow-cook
118 Emphasized
119 Old Chrysler

DOWN
1 Tunes
2 Scout group
3 Attempt anew
4 Ex-Met Tommie
5 Cafe bills
6 Card game
7 Slangy cash
8 City SE of Atlanta
9 Sorry souls?
10 "Stick a fork —"
11 Trio after M
12 Dimwitted
13 Atlas and Cronus, e.g.
14 Revise
15 "— out!"
16 Painter Marc
17 Collections of electronic records
18 "That no longer bugs me"
19 Plunges
24 With 103-Down, 1948 Bogart-Bacall film
29 Soul singer India.—
31 Deprive (of)
32 Artist Jan van der —
33 It's a gas
34 The lady
35 No-frills bed
37 States, in Soissons
39 Unit of current
40 Suburb of Newark
41 Eau —, WI
42 Desires
43 NBAer, e.g.
44 Fit of pique
47 In a serene way
48 Grad
52 Stroke gently
53 Impose — on (outlaw)
55 Notable periods
56 Toni Morrison novel
58 Baby bears
59 Memo start
61 Toledo site
62 James of the Met
63 That which calls to mind
64 Ties the knot again
66 Neuter
70 Key, e.g.
71 Artifice
72 Red-tagged
73 "Ed Wood" star Johnny
74 Have a hunch about
77 Cannes' Palme —
79 Bellies
80 Scurried here and there
81 Encroach (on)
83 Dueling tool
85 "That — liel"
86 Bit of resistance
88 Back in pristine condition
89 Dots in "l'ocean"
91 Act of contrition
92 Seduced
94 More tightly packed
95 Stick it out
98 "The Maids" playwright Jean
100 Odist's "before"
101 1976 Sally Field film
102 Javelin
103 See 24-Down
104 NFL great Merlin
107 Speaker's platform
108 Snooty sort
109 Poet — St. Vincent Millay
111 Checkpoint demands
112 Apartment divs.
113 Furiousness



answer on page E4

KEN KAESS.

Life springs from Ken's Creative Spirit

A creative force like Ken Kaess cannot be extinguished. His legacy as DDB Worldwide CEO remains pervasive and incendiary, a beacon in the creative revolution of DDB, one of the world's largest and most awarded advertising agencies.

In his passing, DDB Philippines Group of Companies adopted one and a half acres of the La Mesa watershed in his honor. The Ken Kaess Enclave is now home to 400 trees planted by DDB employees, a fitting tribute to commemorate his vibrant career and celebrate his humor, humanity and leadership.

Executives of DDB Asia Pacific, including president and CEO John Zeigler, flew in from Australia to join the tree planting held recently at the La Mesa watershed. Zeigler, together with the management and employees of DDB Philippines Group led by CEO Gil G. Chua, got their hands dirty planting seedlings at the Ken Kaess Enclave where the lush greens will take root.

"With Ken's passing, DDB Philippines thought it was a great opportunity to dedicate an activity like this," said Zeigler "This is not only a great community effort but also a great way of people getting together to do something in a way that is bigger than ourselves and bigger than our business."

Connecticut-born Kaess had been associated with DDB for 30 years, having joined the Doyle Dane Bernbach New York office in 1977. He went on to become vice president of children's programming at New World Entertainment where he was instrumental in the Emmy award winning Muppet Babies. In 1990, Ken returned to DDB as president of DDB Entertainment in Los Angeles. After a decade of successfully rallying the DDB philosophy "Better Ideas, Better Results," he became worldwide CEO in January 2001.

DDB Philippines, through its DDB Cares initiative, has been involved in various philanthropic activities, including Energy Conservation, Children's Lab, Philippine Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, and Radio Veritas.

John Zeigler, a native Australian, started his career with DDB when it acquired his integrated marketing service agency, Kuczynski and Ziegler, in 1989. Ziegler is the former worldwide chairman of Tribal DDB, the world's leading interactive communications agency. As the current chief executive of DDB Asia Pacific, Zeigler oversees the agency network in 14 countries throughout the region.

DDB has been twice named The Gunn Report's Most Awarded Agency Network, Adweek's Global Agency and Ad Age's Global Network of the Year. DDB is a four-time winner of the Clio Agency Network of the Year, and has won more awards than any other network in the history of the Cannes International Advertising Festival. Global Interactive subsidiary Tribal DDB was named Adweek's Interactive Agency of the Year for 2005.

DDB's top men: Roy Santiago, Manny Gutierrez, Duy Quang, Lito de Joya, John Zeigler, Gil Chua and Roger Torres

DDB President & CEO Gil Chua

DDB HR Manager Julie de Joya gets her hands dirty for a cause

DDB Asia Pacific CFO Duy Quang

For John Zeigler and Gil Chua, there's nothing better after a hard day's work than snacking on McDonald's and Pepsi.

DDB

Advt

THE NEW Mall of Asia is expected to be the biggest crowd-drawer among SM malls.

THE AYALA Group's Glorietta and Market! Market! malls are also part of DOT's new tourism campaign.

THE ORTIGAS Group's Tiendesitas will draw tourists looking for exotic buys.

Retail therapy big come-on for tourists

Para sa walang-hintong trabaho at gimikan, ang bagong Bull Fighter ang katapat. Dulot ng Amino Acids, Taurine, at Vitamin C ang dagdag lakas laban sa pagod at sakit. Nasa unbreakable P.E.T. bottle with resealable cap para madaling dalhin at inumin kahit saan. Sa halagang P23* lang, malayo ang mararating mo -

*suggested retail price

The Department of Tourism is adding shopping to the itinerary of tourists from markets already attracted to the Philippines

By Linda B. Bolido

FINALLY, THE PHILIPPINES IS about to cash in on a potentially major tourist draw—shopping.

Though several of its Asian neighbors have long touted themselves as shopping meccas, the Philippines, as most Filipino and foreign travelers already know, is a pearl that shopaholic travelers have yet to discover.

But the Philippines has been slow to recognize that its many malls, *tiangges*, and other shopping areas offering inexpensive but quality products can lure travelers as well as pristine beaches and natural wonders.

In fact, even brand names may seem to be selling at bargain prices here to some foreigners, especially those coming from Europe and America. We're talking about the real thing, not the Vuitton or Gucci *kuno* you get in those small stalls all over the metropolis.

Lower taxes make the genuine articles cost significantly less here than if foreign visitors bought them back home.

And so, after being hung up for years on traditional tourist attractions—beaches, mountains, and, yes, women—the Department of Tourism has finally woken up to the fact that today's travelers are a diverse lot, looking for something other than the usual (Thailand, it was reported recently, is even offering "custom-made" babies, letting visitors who come for fertility treatments to choose the sex of their child).

Tourism Secretary Joseph H. Durano said the thrust was not just to target "markets that the Philippines finds attractive, but (also) markets that are (already) attracted to the Philippines. This will cost less because (they) are already inclined to visit the country."

Durano said even in the "most difficult" markets, some segments still found the Philippines attractive. The task was to identify what "products" would draw them.

The DOT has already drawn up various packages—health and medical, adventure, ecotourism, cultural/historical, etc.—to respond to market needs. And now, shopping, for those tourists eager to be parted from their money.

Durano acknowledged that shopping was never formally promoted in the past but he had been told by many people that "they find shopping great in the Philippines."

Rica Bueno, head of DOT's Team Asia-Pacific, said the campaign was initially directed at visitors from Hong Kong, to improve tourist arrivals from China's autonomous region whose residents are discerning shoppers to be sure. In fact, the department launched the campaign at the International Travel Fair in Hong Kong in June.

The campaign, Mabuhay Shopping Spree that is ongoing until Dec. 31, aims to project the Philippines as an exciting shopping/entertainment/dining destination.

The DOT, through Durano, signed recently memoranda of understanding with four major shopping centers in Metro Manila that had so far come on board—Ayala Malls Group (Glorietta and Greenbelt), Ortigas and Company Limited Partnership (Greenhills and Tiendesitas), Market! Market! and SM Mart Inc.

As part of the campaign, partner establishments will give visitors shopping privileges like special discounts and freebies. Travelers will get privilege cards that can get them special gifts in certain places and discounts in places displaying the sign Mabuhay Shopping Spree.

The shopping privilege cards can be obtained at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport from the DOT booth and from partner travel agents. They are also available in DOT overseas offices.

Bueno said, with this new campaign, the DOT hoped to encourage shopping tours. To support the campaign, the department, she said, would be conducting Mabuhay host training for shopping mall frontliners.

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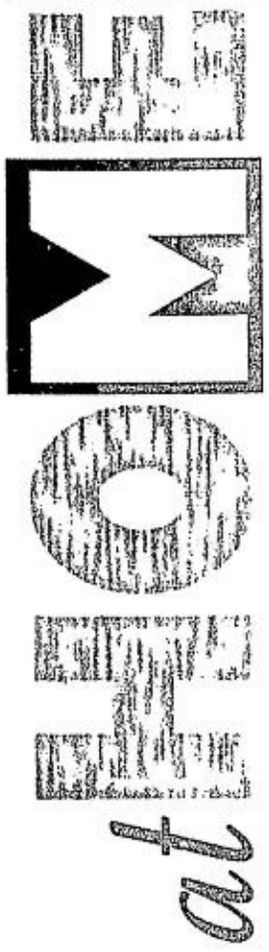
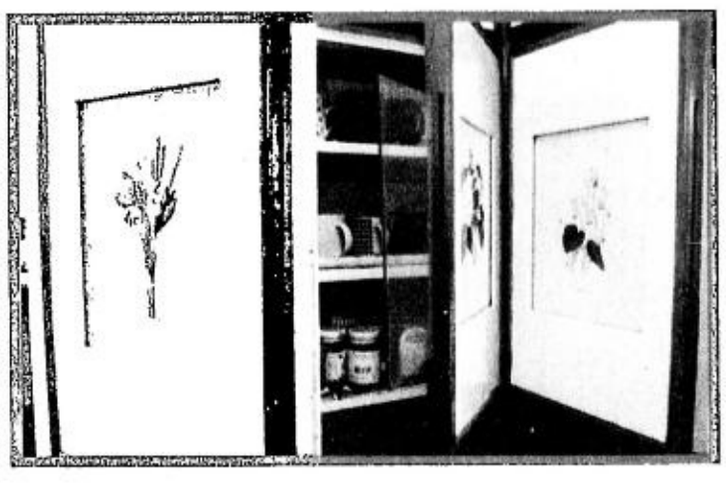
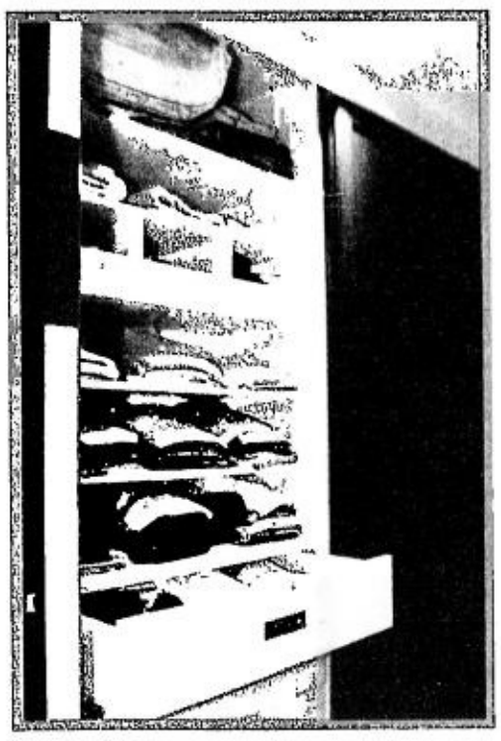
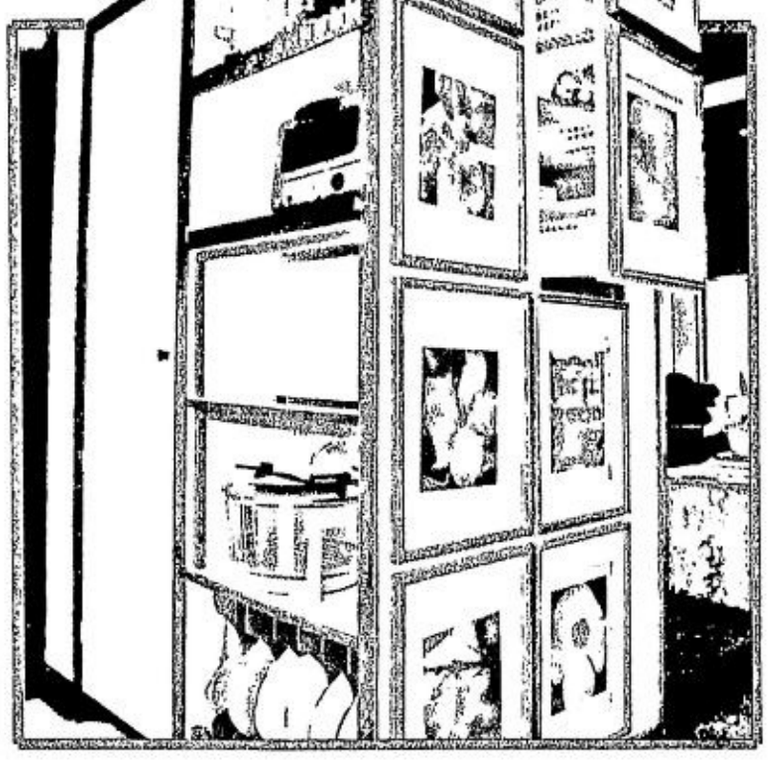
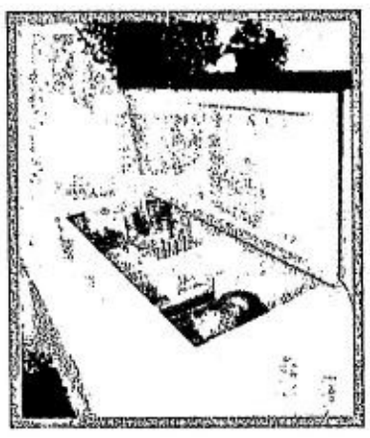
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)











For keeps

■ Store it with style /E2
■ What a pro can do /F1

High Sodium Puts you at High Risk

To food connoisseurs, salt is the spice of life. It's what gives flavor and distinction to different kinds of cuisine. Without salt, eating would cease to be the consummate experience devoutly to be wished.

Too much salt however, can upset the normal balance of body fluids. Excessive sodium intake causes water retention and swelling (edema), which burdens the heart and makes it work harder to pump excess fluids inside the body. This prevents the heart from pumping enough blood to sustain the functions of the different systems and organs.

A high-sodium diet also causes high blood pressure, a major risk factor in heart disease and stroke.

DASH Diet. DASH which stands for Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension, is an eating program developed by nutritionists to help manage blood pressure. High in fruits, vegetables, whole grains and low-fat dairy products, it aims to promote cardiovascular health by reducing sodium intake to about one teaspoon a day.

While this may seem quite manageable, it is important to remember that sodium is an ingredient that lurks invisibly in many highly-processed foods. A cup of skim milk, for example, will have about 120 milligrams of sodium, so you really need to read the fine print on nutrition facts at the back of packaging labels to ensure a low-salt diet.

Tips for Healthful Eating. A low-sodium eating plan incorporates these basic reminders:

When cooking at home, use fresh ingredients and more herbs and spices to bring out the natural flavor of food. Switch to fruit juice for marinades. Stay away from convenience food items like canned soup and vegetables, sauce and seasoning mixes and microwaveable packed meals.

When dining in a restaurant, stay away from breads and rolls with salty crusts, as well as soups and broths. Request that salad dressing be put on the side and dab on salad greens sparingly. Ask that food be cooked without salt or monosodium glutamate (MSG). Opt for fresh fruits and vegetables and plain broiled, grilled or roasted meat, poultry, fish or shellfish. Avoid pickled, cured and other seasoned meats.

At fast food chains, skip the condiments, gravy and sauces. Better yet, eat at home more often to have better control over salt intake.

Less Salt for Long Life. Numerous scientific studies document the benefits of a low-sodium diet in managing blood pressure and promoting cardiovascular health.

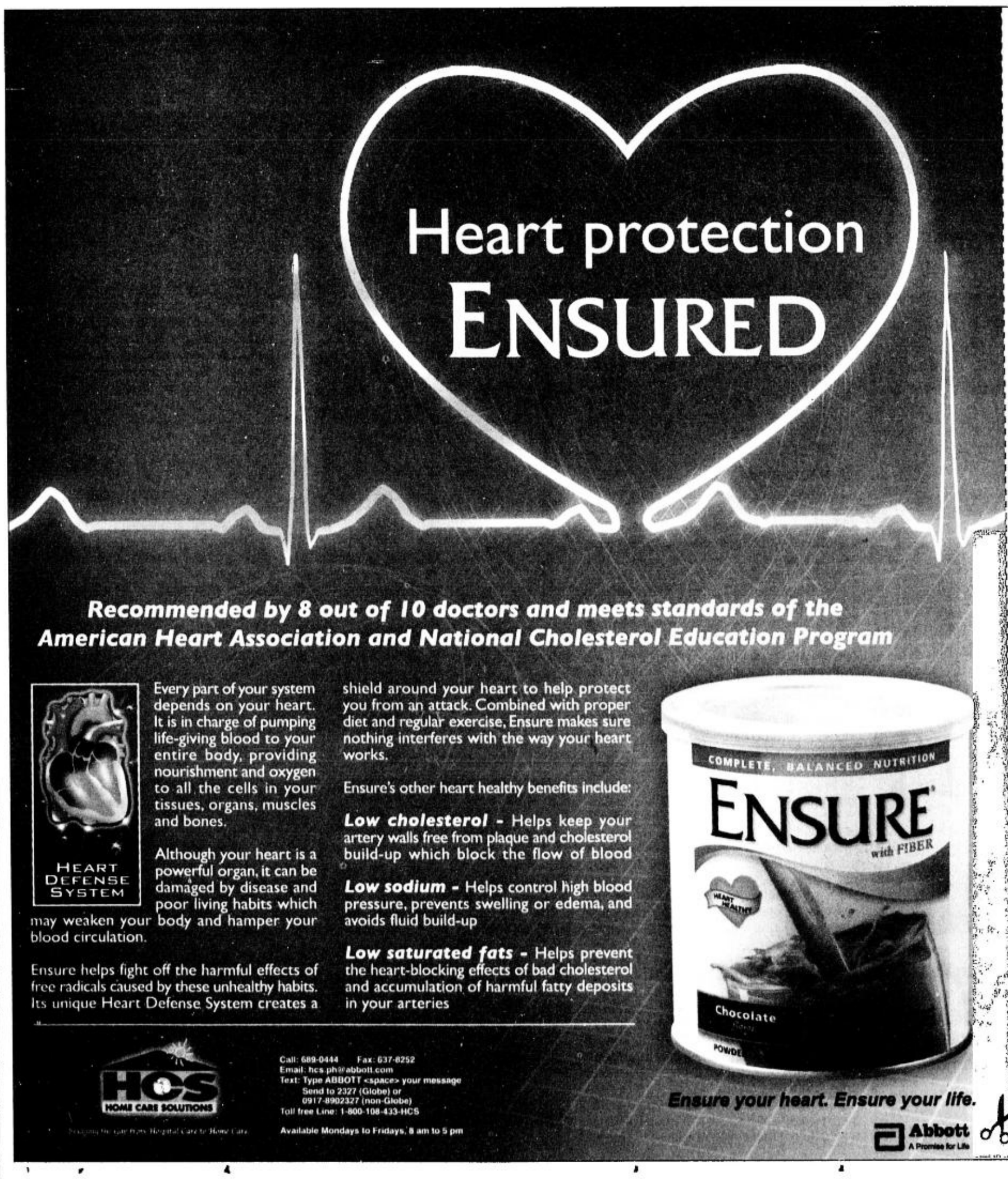
To help in heart protection, take a glass of **Ensure** daily. It is low in sodium. Ensure is the only adult drink especially formulated with a heart-healthy fat blend that meets the dietary fat recommended by the American Heart Association and the National Cholesterol Education Program. It also contains plenty of antioxidants that help protect heart tissue cells from damage caused by free radicals. Use Ensure as a nutritional supplement, a meal replacement, or as a sole source of nutrition when unable to eat solid food.

Ensure your heart, ensure your life.

Call us at our Home Care Solutions for your free nutrition counseling at tel. no. 689-0444 or toll free line: 1-800-108-433-HCS; Text: Type ABBOTT <space> your message. Send to 2327 (Globe) or 0917-890-2327 (non-Globe).

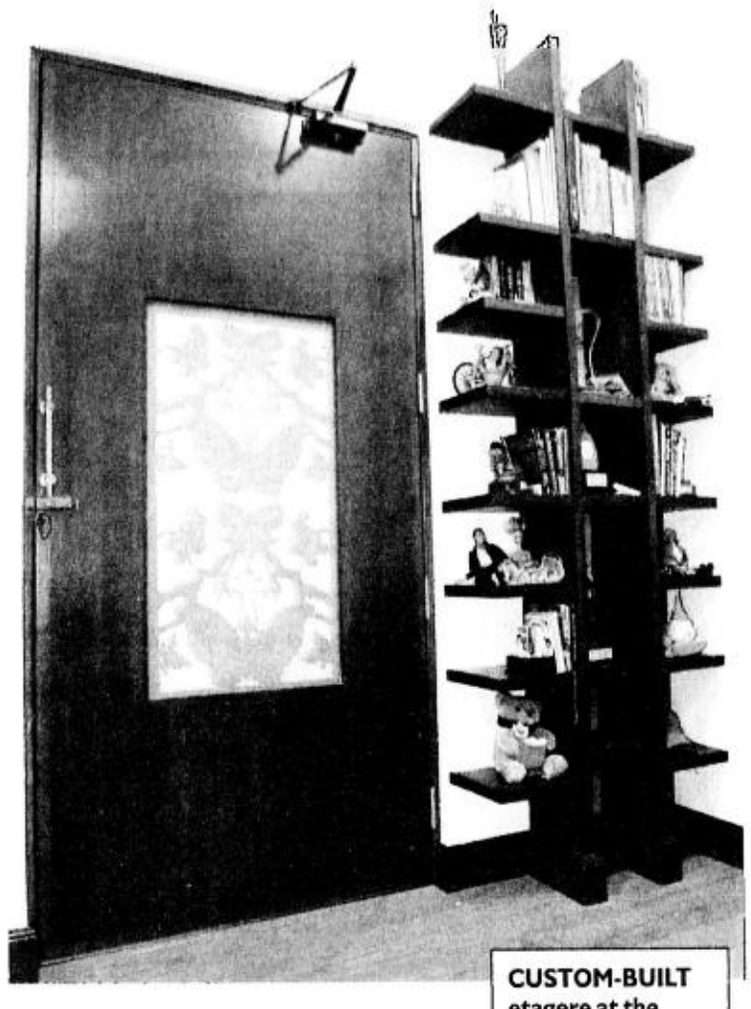
Ensure is available in major drugstores and supermarkets nationwide.

ADVT.



SO AS NOT to clutter the bedroom with personal effects, the Olives couple opts for shelves built into the headboard.

CUSTOM-BUILT cabinet keeps several futons within easy reach at the Santos clan's rest house.



CUSTOM-BUILT etagere at the Olives home sits by a door featuring cutwork set on a sheet of opaque glass.

What's in store

Storage spaces are integral to living areas. Design should take them into account

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

THE RIGHT STORAGE CAN do more than just put a semblance of order into your lives. As interior and landscape designer Aia Santos-Halili has shown through her works, they can also double as a person's (or family's) medium of expression.

The doors of her kitchen cabinets, for instance, also function as picture frames featuring her collection of floral prints. And just like the real thing, each door comes with borders and a sheet of glass.

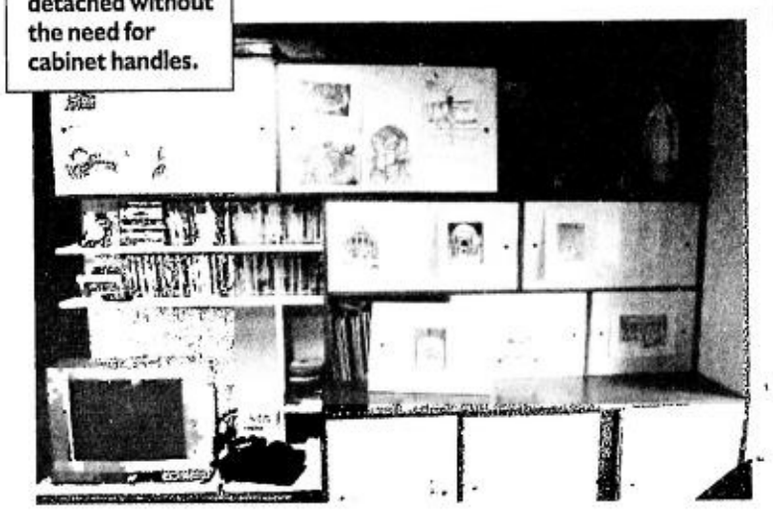
Santos-Halili fashioned inconspicuous slits on the side of each door to allow for replacement of the featured print. The same principle works in the series of drawers that features colored pictures of flowers her husband took decades ago.

"I love to introduce certain changes in my home every now and then," she says. "I change prints depending on my mood and the season. There was even a time I displayed pictures of my children and their cousins."

Each drawer, which keeps all sorts of lightweight knickknacks, comes with inexpensive slides or drawer guides. So as not to mar her picture frames, Santos-Halili did away with traditional drawer handles in favor of small, concealed grips.

PICTURE frames that double as cabinet doors in Santos-Halili's kitchen come with secret slits to allow her to change prints depending on her mood and the season.

THESE cabinets in the Halili family's study room are made of dual-purpose white board and can be easily detached without the need for cabinet handles.



Taking her cue from a traditional bar, she also designed an overhead glass organizer for her long-stemmed pieces. With a pocket garden as backdrop, the inverted blue glasses look like lighted chandeliers during certain hours of the day.

Old-fashioned

The same creativity is evident in a separate unit within the compound that serves as the clan's rest house. Designed to look like a traditional Filipino home, the unit comes with a kitchen inspired by an old-fashioned "*banggerahan*" (Filipino cupboard).

As such, inverted drinking glasses are set on an uneven picket fence typical of those found in the sink area of provincial homes. The unit's lone bedroom comes with a custom-built futon cabinet.

But no matter how unusual your storage space is, says Santos-Halili, function should never take a backseat to form (*see photos of storage spaces found in her clients' homes*). If anything, cabinets and drawers should complement your lifestyle.

Do you regularly host parties at home or do you prefer to treat your friends out during special occasions? Do you cook a lot?

Are you childless or do you have a bunch of growing kids? Are you practical or a bit sentimental when it comes to keeping such possessions as gifts, keepsakes and heirloom pieces?

These questions and more need definite answers before you embark on designing and constructing a cabinet, pantry or countertop.

"That's why I make it a point to get my clients' inputs," says Santos-Halili. "A one-size-fits-all approach won't work when it comes to shelves and cabinets. Our needs are dictated by our respective lifestyles."

Apart from materials, ergonomics should also be factored into the equation. Every item should be organized, but at the same time within easy reach.

Before embarking on designing and building storage spaces, says Santos-Halili, it would help if homeowners make an inventory of the stuff they own and intend to keep.

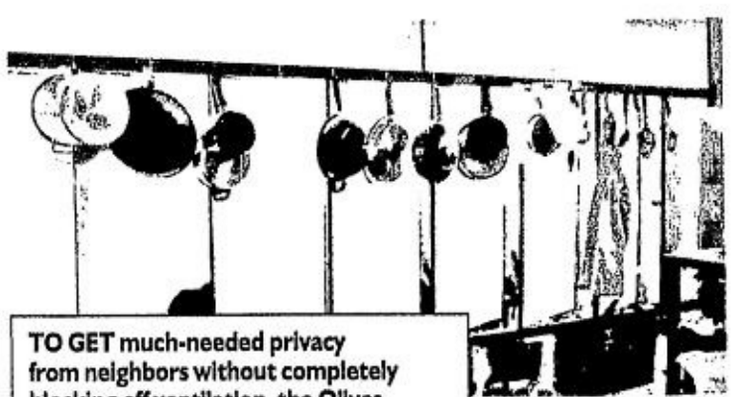
They should take into consideration, for instance, which items are constantly used in the house and which items aren't. Which items are worth displaying and which items are better kept out of sight.

"Storage spaces are very important," she adds. "Cabinets should be integral to a house's design. If the supposed solutions don't meet the client's needs, then he or she won't be able to maintain the design or concept."

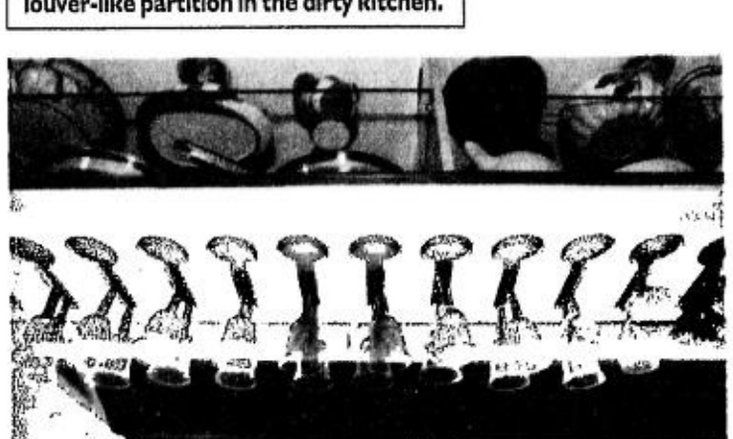
Without the right storage spaces, even the grandest home will turn into a mess in less than a month.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

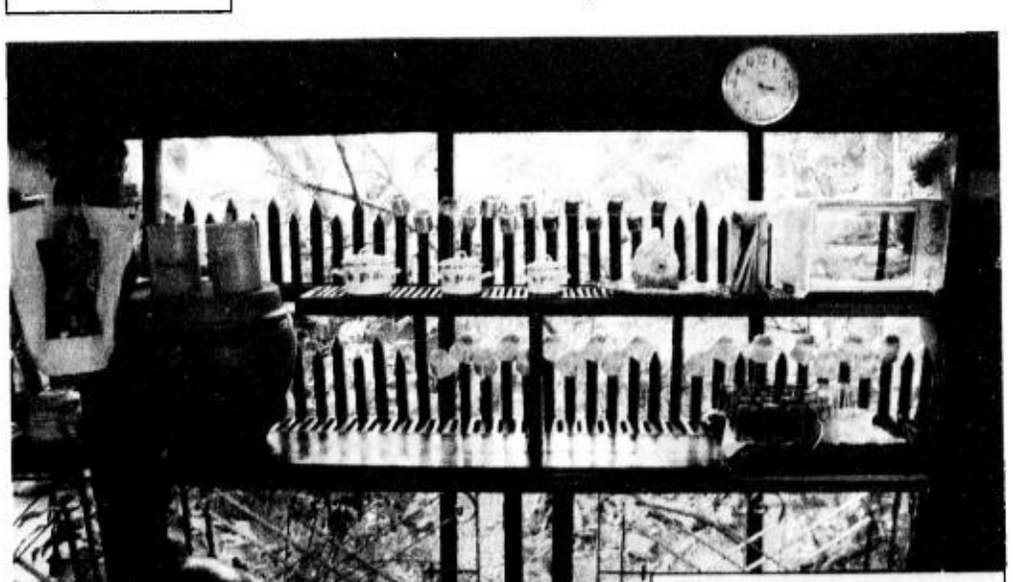
LIKE Santos-Halili, you can keep constantly used kitchen items within easy reach by designing a cabinet that matches your cooking habits.



TO GET much-needed privacy from neighbors without completely blocking off ventilation, the Olives couple hangs pots and pans before a louver-like partition in the dirty kitchen.

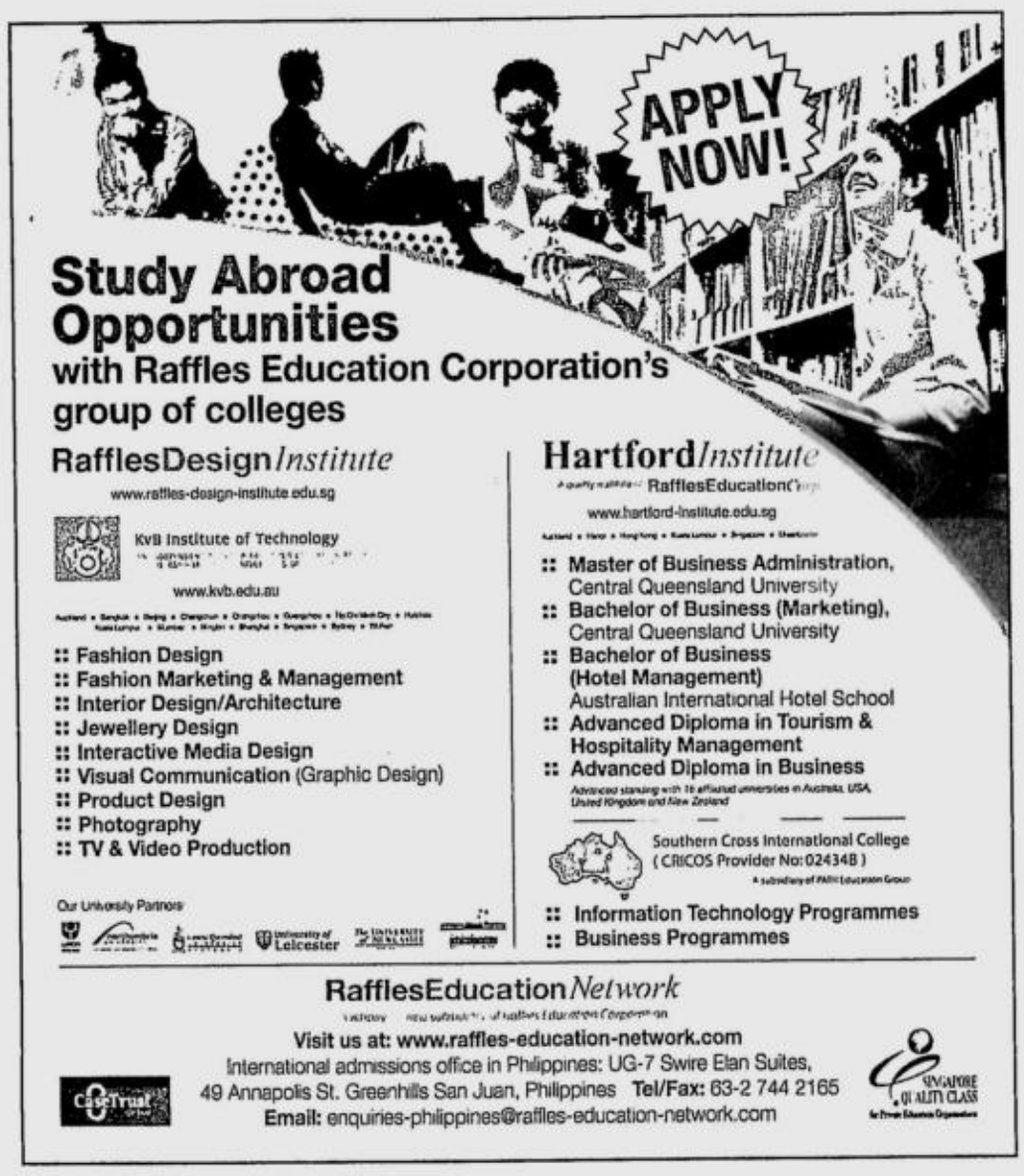


LONG-STEMMED glasses dangle from this overhead holder inspired by those found in a typical bar.



TRADITIONAL Filipino *banggerahan* comes with decorative picket fences that function as glass holders.

BOB SEGOVIA and son turn the bottom of the stairs into a repository of old toy cars, cameras and memories of yesteryears (left). Keep those CDs and DVDs in order with a custom-built cabinet like this one (farther left) at the Olives home.



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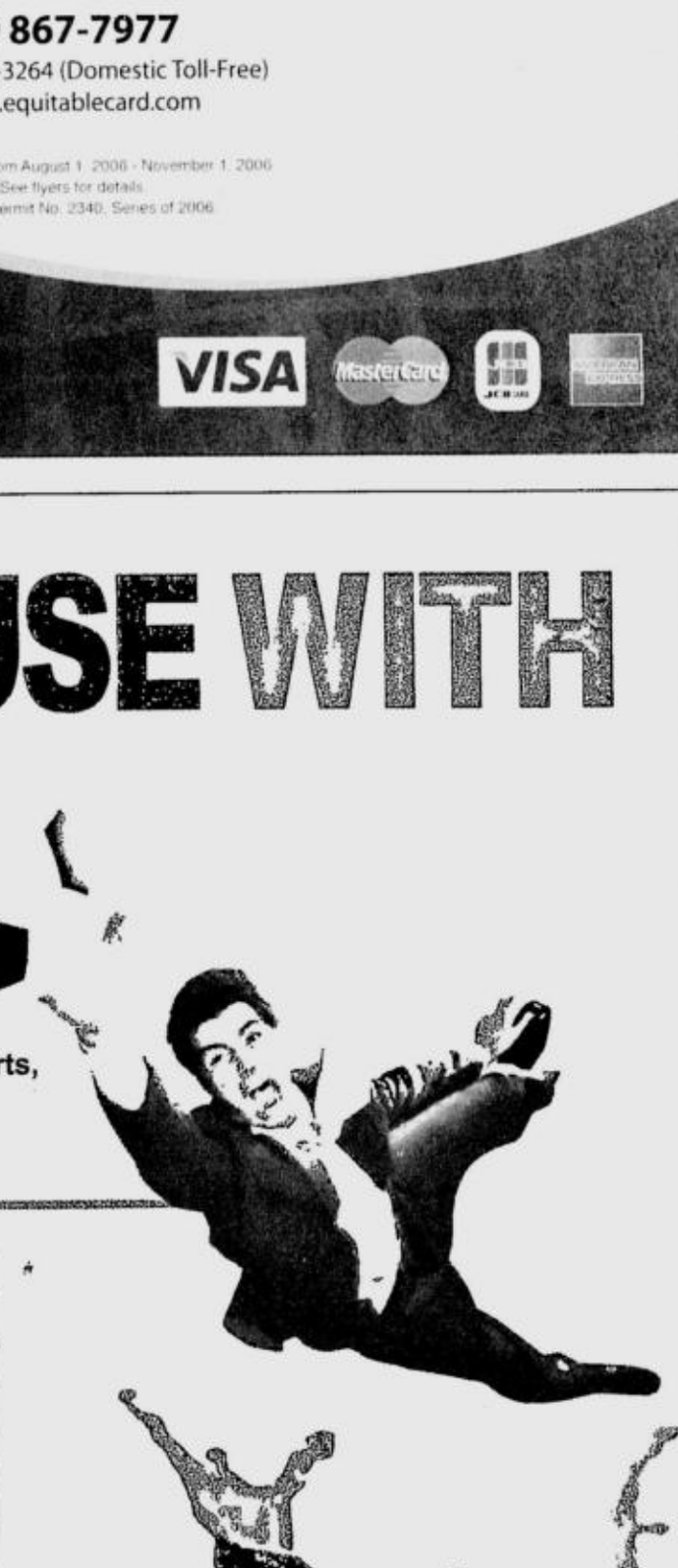

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New **MILO FUZE** is the fusion of the natural goodness of **MILO** with **Actigen E** and the nourishment of **High Calcium, Non-Fat Milk**. This great combination optimizes your body's release of energy so you can put more life into your work and have a life after work. What's more, you get to indulge in that great **MILO** taste and benefit from the nourishment of **High Calcium, Non-Fat Milk**.

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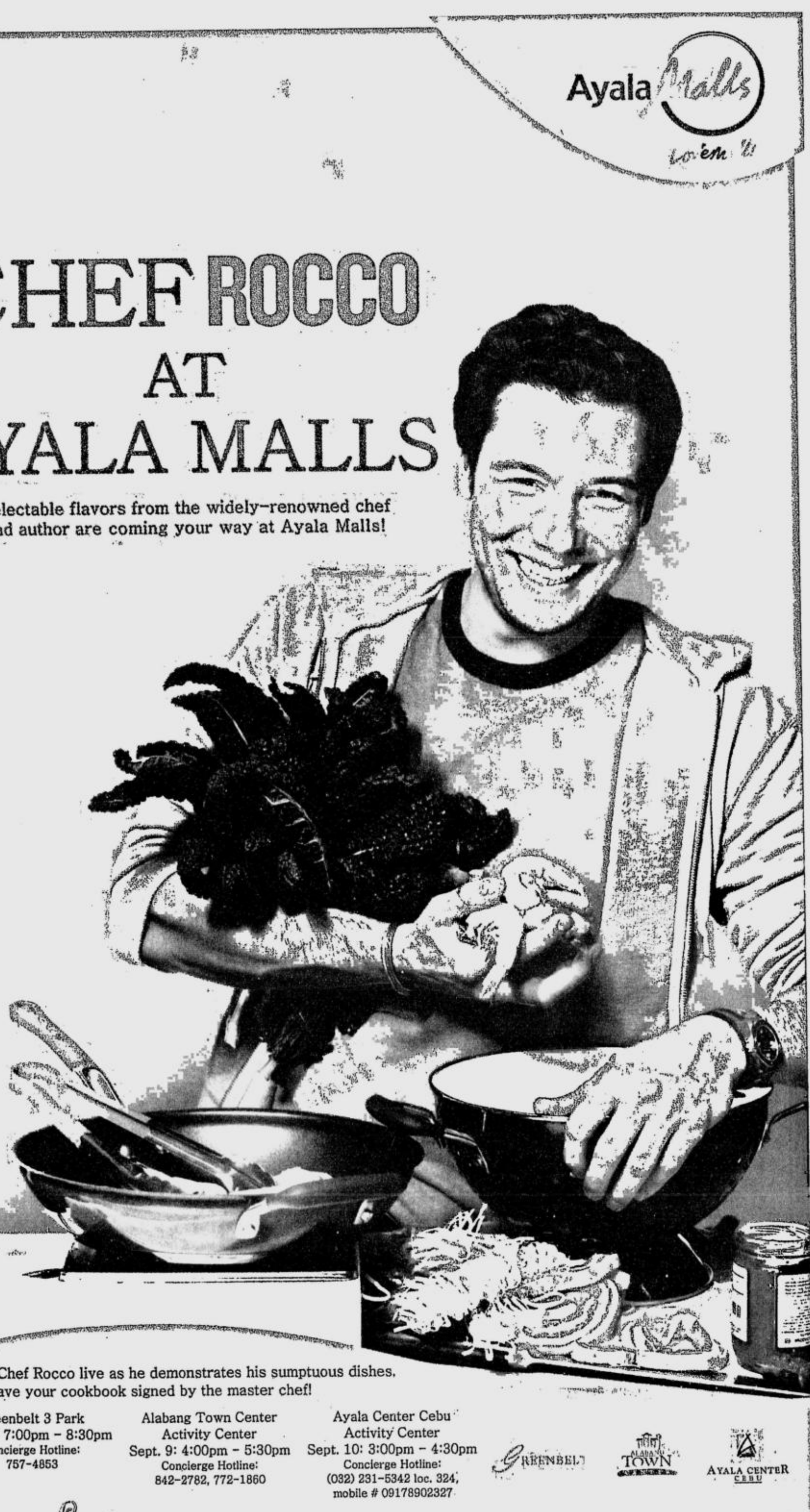
New **MILO FUZE** is now available in supermarkets and groceries nationwide.

Have it all.

Ayala Malls Loren

CHEF ROCCO AT AYALA MALLS

Delectable flavors from the widely-renowned chef and author are coming your way at Ayala Malls!



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Ayala Center Cebu
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Wonder walls

PUT COLOR AND DRAMA ON your walls with an original artwork.

Displayed smartly, artworks can have a wide range of design functions—bring elements of a room together, create the illusion of size, define a focal point, and set the mood.

You can establish mood by using lines in an artwork or its frame, or by arranging elements in a line.

Strong horizontal lines evoke calmness and give the illusion of width. Strong vertical lines convey alertness and make rooms seem taller. Diagonal lines express dynamism and add movement.

A tall painting highlights a narrow wall while panoramic pictures accentuate a wide panel. A series of paintings lined up diagonally on a stairwell has visual impact while a landscape in a small, windowless space opens up a room.

It's all related

Relate art to its surroundings.

When hanging art above a couch or a shelf, the bottom of the frame should sit within 5-10 inches over the backrest. Fit smaller pictures into narrow walls and keep larger works in wide, open spaces.

Shades within the artwork can be echoed by other elements in the room. You can bring out a painting by matting it in a contrasting color to the wall—a dark mat against a light wall, a light mat for a dark wall.

Combinations of sizes, shapes, and spacing of objects can create rhythm. Objects of the same size and equally spaced produce a more placid rhythm. Alternating shapes in a tight cluster have a more staccato rhythm.

Cover a large area with a group of smaller paintings. Grouping is less overpowering and makes the display more interesting.

A group of themed artworks can have a big impact. Repetition is also a simple way to create a dramatic and dynamic pattern.

Balancing act

Visual weight should be evenly distributed. Balance is essential. Symmetry is always pleasing, each half of the display mirroring the opposite side.

There are other ways to achieve balance. Instead of hanging paintings in a straight line, you can alternately offset them.

Grouping objects in odd numbers is a good technique for diverse items.

Some works may have to be displayed alone. Large, oddly shaped, boldly patterned, very dark, or very bright objects will look heavier than small, pale, solid, regularly shaped objects.

Visually heavy objects can be anchored to similarly heavy objects, such as a sofa, a chest of drawers or a grand piano.

Use picture hooks to hang artworks securely. The hooks should be able to carry the weight of their load.

Illuminating art gives it importance. Install track lighting, especially in hallways and alcoves, to draw attention.

To learn more about bringing art into the home, visit the month-long Philippine School of Interior Design's "Obra Maestra" presented by the Advanced Class of 2006 starting Sept. 30 at the third floor of Greenbelt 1.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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Super organize me

ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPH BRAVO

Can't find anything you're looking for at home? Let a professional organizer help you

By Kathleen Ong
Contributor

"Instead of editing words, I edit people's time and space."—**Harriet Schechter,** professional organizer

WHEN PEOPLE ASK ME what I do for a living, I reply, "I'm a professional organizer."

Nine out of 10 times they'd ask, "Weddings?" And I' d say, "No, I help people organize their space for productivity." After some discussion, the inevitable question would be, "So, are you OC [obsessive compulsive]?"

While a lot of people I've spoken with have never heard of professional organizing, it's really not that new. Professional organizing has been around since 1985 in the United States and now has spread across Canada, Europe and Asia.

It was around 2001 when HGTV shows like "Mission: Organization" and "Clean House" helped spread word about the professional organizing industry worldwide.

It's true there are the ultra-busy people who just don't have the energy or space in their schedule to do it. And there are people who don't have time because they are too busy being disorganized. It's a daily, common routine to operate on frantic mode.

With or without the help of a professional organizer, investing time in organizing can give you peace of mind and help you be more efficient. You're able to find things without looking in five different places, and it reduces stress by relieving you of unnecessary tension and worry.

So, am I OC?

No. Professional organizers are thorough but not obsessively meticulous. Some people fear professional organizers are going to turn them into some kind of inflexible neat freaks, robbing them of any spontaneity. The truth is, organization is more about productivity and function than just neatness. PO's will create simple and yet effective systems that will help you become organized enough, enabling you to focus on more important things other than all the hassle disorganization brings.

Visit www.rippleeffectorganizing.com. Do you have an organizing dilemma? E-mail your query and get the answer posted on the next organizing article.

Do you need a professional organizer? The answer is yes if...

- You can't find things the moment you need them.
- You have trouble letting go or deciding what to keep or toss out.
- You'd like to get organized but you're too overwhelmed by the sight of your stuff.
- You keep buying things only to lose them among your many other things.
- There are multiple items stacked up around your home or office that impede movement.
- You're clearly inconvenienced by clutter.
- You yearn to transform your surroundings into a place of calm and order.

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Space savers and clutter busters

CEDAR hanging shoe bag and shelf sweater bag

CONCEPTUALIZED IN JUNE 2000, leading retailer Stores Specialists, Inc. created MakeRoom as a helpful and convenient retail concept that offers home and office solutions for the design-yet-functional-oriented market.

MakeRoom provides a wide assortment of functional accents and space savers that allow for innovative storage solutions. Professionals and homemakers alike would find the items useful, since items are selected and crafted to fit today's busy yet fashionable lifestyle.

The MakeRoom spectrum includes: MakeRoom Home and MakeRoom Office, all designed with sensible organization and are continually updated to reflect new trends.

Tidy up. Utility musts include the modern five-liter pedal bin, art supply boxes for all the creative trinkets, and an ultra cute Velboa dog sofa in brown for your pups to stay comfy and clean.

Save on space. Efficient buys include the Cedar six-shelf sweater bag and Cedar hanging shoe bag.

Too many shoes and too little space? You must have the 12-pair shoe rack or more. MakeRoom also provides the small folding chrome shelf and small standing drawer.

Kitchen aids. Essentials include a large Classico basket and the large flatware caddy. And cooking just got more enticing with the cooking nook accented by stylish MakeRoom salt and pepper shakers or window canister sets.

Bathroom bets. For your laundry, opt for the durable chrome hamper. Other necessities include the Classico roll stand plus and Classico magazine stand plus.

For multi-functional holders, choose the Forma bath collection which includes a boutique box, a toothbrush holder, a soap dish, a tumbler and a soap pump.

Office tools. Splash color on your office surroundings with the Modular standing bin in pink or purple. To keep files in place, own the Tween3 drawers and for pens, pins and wires and tuck them away in the small Tilt and Lock. For a handy CD library, Standable CD holders are also available.

MakeRoom is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. Shops are at 3/L, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell; G/F, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center; G/F, Alabang Town Center; and 4/F, Rustan's Department Store, Shangri La Plaza Mall.

Chest and drawers for kiddie stuff

HOW DO WE EFFECTIVELY teach our kids the value of being orderly and neat without compromising their privilege to enjoy childhood?

Caha de Oro's two special chest and drawers, Kidstuff and Bambino, can be of help.

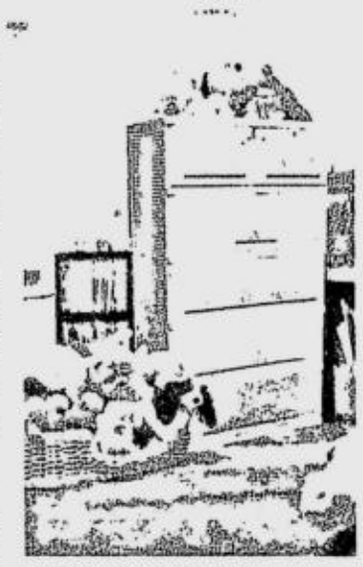
With its spacious drawers, Kidstuff can accommodate a wide range of items such as clothes, accessories and playthings. It can serve as a centralized storage for your children's personal stuff.

Kidstuff comes in a contoured design and a glossy finish. Its multi-colored layers can be used as color-coding aids, so that your young ones can learn where to place specific items and where to look for them afterwards.

Bambino, like Kidstuff, is made of layers in various colors, and is spacious enough to accommodate all your kids' personal belongings.

Manufactured by Orocan, these new Caha de Oro chest and drawers are made of premium plastic and boast superior craftsmanship. They are designed to help children appreciate a clean and organized environment.

Check out Bambino and Kidstuff at leading department stores near you.



OROCAN Kids Stuff

All-in-one kitchen rack

PLASTIC HOUSEWARE INdustry leader Orocan introduces the Kitchen Queen, a three-in-one kitchen organizer that guarantees help in keeping kitchens clean and organized. It is a multi-purpose kitchen partner packed with a detachable kitchen butler, spacious dish rack, and a cutlery and utensil organizer.

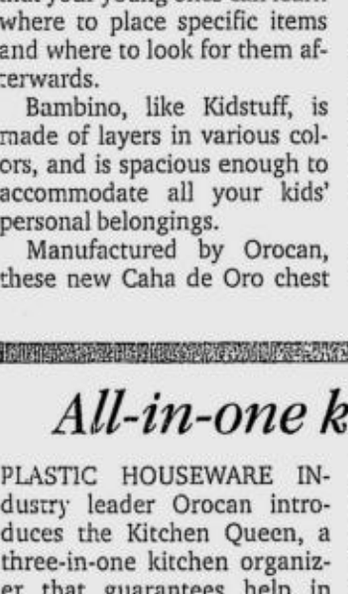
On top of the Kitchen Queen is a detachable kitchen butler that can be used to store tumblers and mugs. It can also be utilized as food storage to help keep food safe and clean. Because it is detachable, it can also be used to serve drinks to visitors during parties.

The Kitchen Queen's second tier serves as a dish rack that can keep up to twenty-four plates. With its leveled surface, the dish rack can also store drinking glasses and mugs. The dish rack comes with a drainer to protect kitchen ware from molds caused by excess water.

A cutlery and utensil organizer, with five slots that fit various sizes of cutlery on its third tier, goes with the Kitchen Queen. Similar to the dish rack, the organizer also comes with a wire mesh that drains excess water from the utensils.

The Kitchen Queen is available in blue, beige, red and green.

Orocan products are made of high-quality plastic materials, making durability its primary attribute.



OROCAN Kitchen Queen

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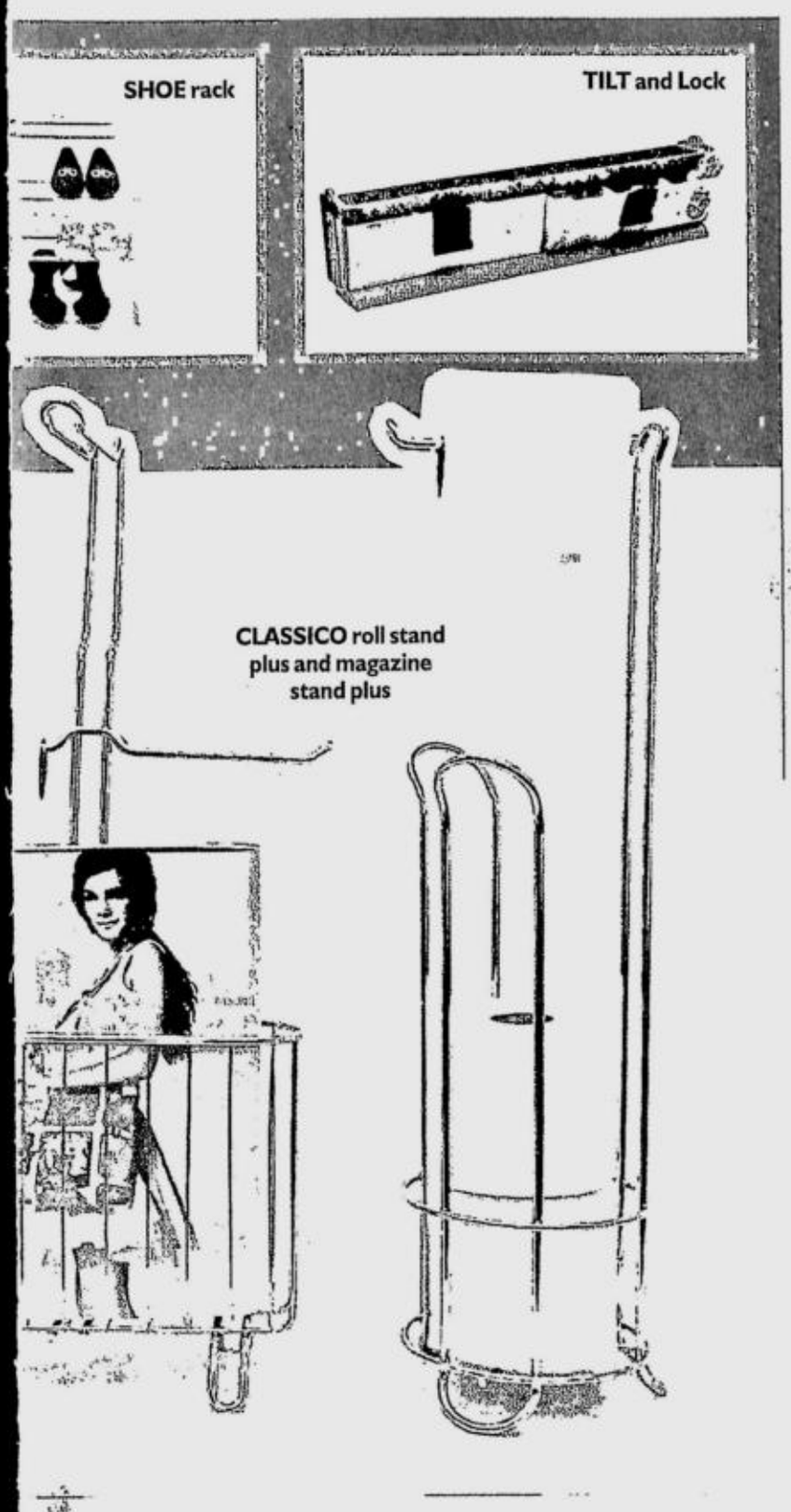
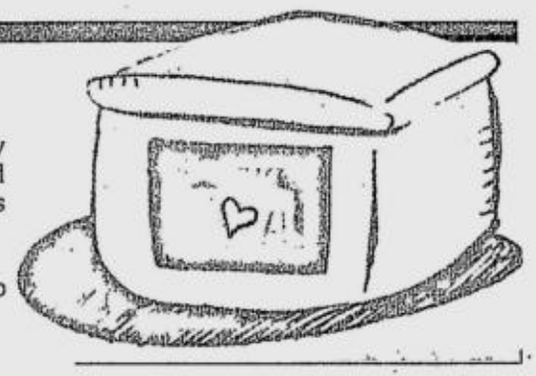
*10% per annum for a loan amount of P500,000.00 payable in 25 years.
** For a loan amount of P10,000,000.00 and above.



CLASSICO roll stand plus and magazine stand plus

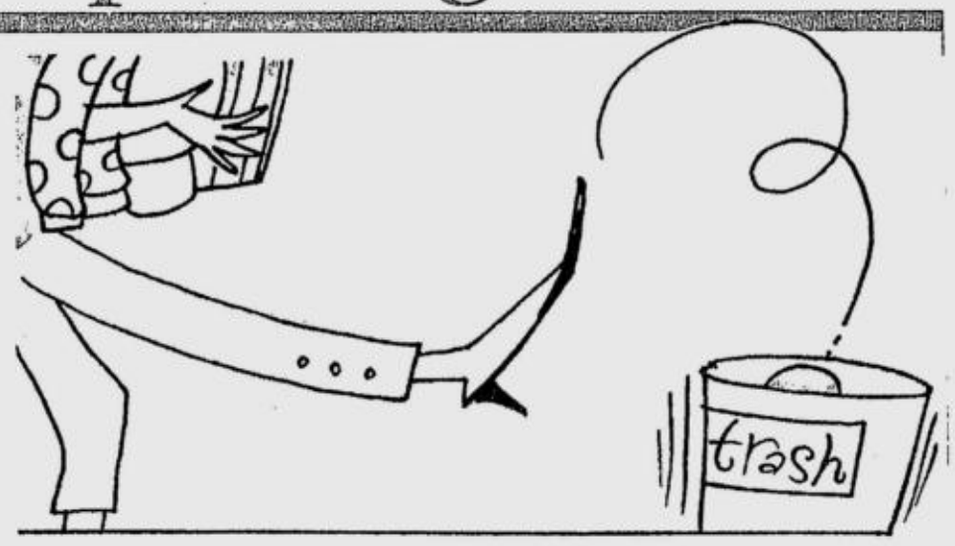
How can a professional organizer help?

- By creating systems and structure in your environment that help you function your best.
- By helping you keep your commitment on taking charge of the chaos. Work becomes doable and achievable.
- By offering an objective point of view on your relationship with your stuff, allowing you to gain new perspective.
- By being an organizing coach or buddy who can recommend solutions, ideas and information and offering support, focus and direction.
- By showing you how to maintain systems.
- By helping you get results, customized to your unique habits and concerns.



Super-organize me

From page F1



What are the common fears of people who feel they need an organizer?

- "I'm embarrassed. I might be the worst of them all."

Professional organizers are rarely shocked with the amount of clutter one can accumulate. We are the last people to be judgmental with "messy" people. We help people get organized for a living, remember?

- "Will an organizer make me throw away my stuff?"

The client is the final decision maker on what goes or stays. Organizers will ask you lots of questions that'll help you make the best decisions on what to do with your stuff.

- "I'm not comfortable with the thought that I'm admitting that I can't do this myself and have to hire an organizer."

Asking for help just means you're focused on solving the issue instead of prioritizing what other people are going to think. Simply put, you're just being proactive in solving a problem.

- "Is confidentiality guaranteed?"

Yes, it is guaranteed.

- "It might be too expensive."

If I asked you to put a price on your peace of mind and personal productivity, how much would those be worth? If disorganization is major concern for you, then it is worth the investment.

Why get organized?

Being disorganized can cause serious consequences in the different areas of your life, such as finances, health, relationships and legal matters. Can't find the documents to support claims? Forgot to pay your bills again? People losing confidence in your ability to get things done? Always in high stress as you race to meet the next deadline?

"Being organized is not an end in itself. It is a vehicle to take from where you are to where you want to be." —Stephanie Winston Productivity Consultant

Organization helps in supporting you in reaching your goals, it is your ally to success, whatever that might mean for you.

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Homes featured are for presentation purposes only. Courtesy of Earth+Style.

TIBETAN bench

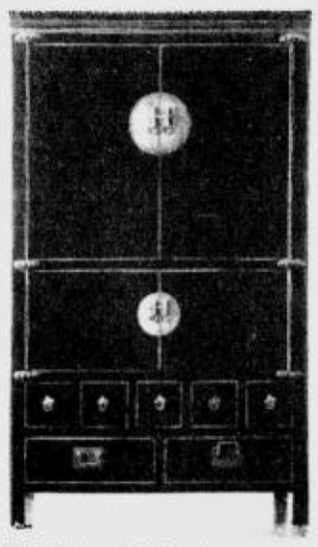
Storing, the Oriental way

ELEGANT EBONY AND brass furniture from China and majestic Tibetan treasures comprise the latest line recently unveiled by Anna Marie Home in select Blims Fine Furniture stores.

The Ebony and Brass Collection includes stately armoires that reflect the Yin and Yang concept of balance. Yin stands for dark colors, curves and wandering lines and receptiveness while Yang is straight and linear. Smooth black lines paired with rich brass handles exemplify the look. The armoires, designed with slide-in doors and multiple drawers are perfect for hiding electronics, CDs and DVDs.

A sudden splash of color can make an otherwise drab room come alive. The Tibetan Treasures collection is replete with intense reds and oranges overlaid with vivid paintings of flowers, vines and geometric patterns. Massive chests, side tables and benches with drawers not only add beauty to any setting but provide much needed storage.

Now on its third year, Anna Marie Home has set the trend for tasteful interiors. The store has made popular the concept of re-purposing or finding several uses for a single piece of furniture, It has also debunked the fear of using big pieces in a small place.



BLACK twin Ningbo armoire

TIBETAN side table with Tibetan jar

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Located in the heart of the Makati Golden Triangle (flanked by Ayala, Buendia and Makati Avenues), GSM is designed to be an oasis at the heart of the business and entertainment capitals of the country.

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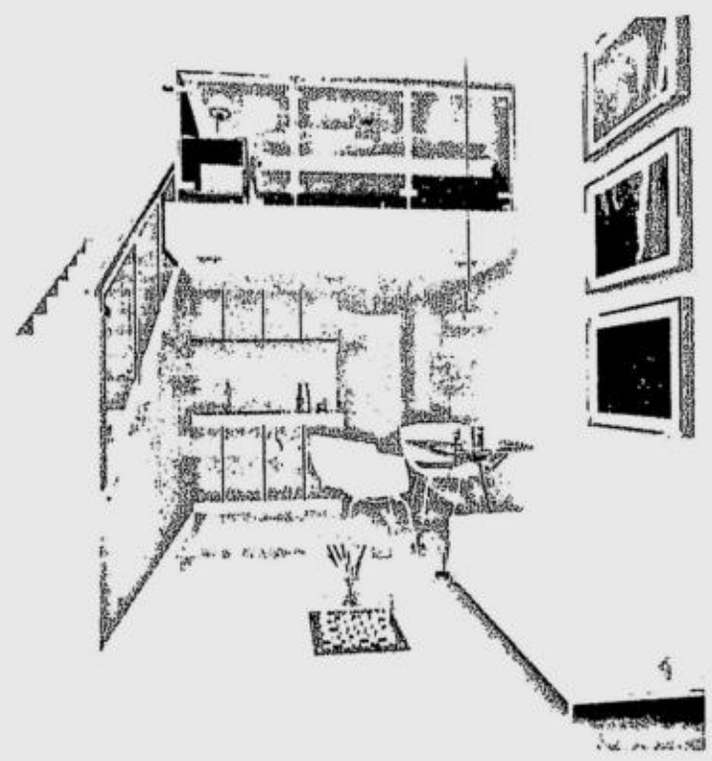
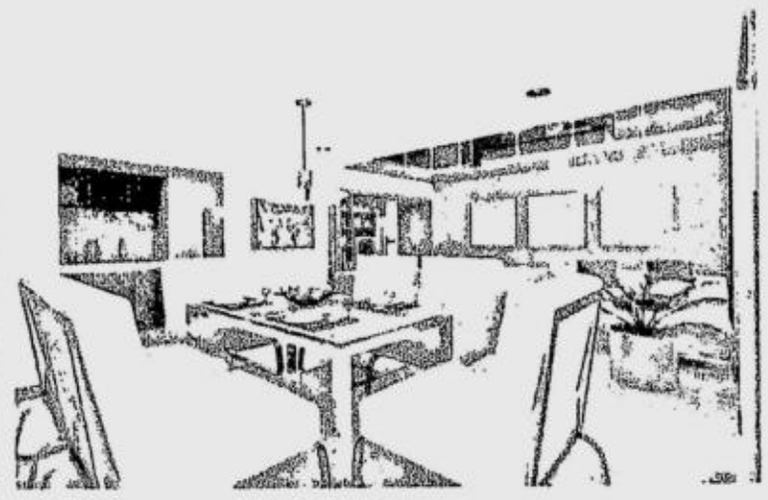


ONE-BEDROOM loft

MAKATI skyline



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'Kalimugtong' may tour schools nationwide

By Marinel R. Cruz

MES DE GUZMAN, director of the award-winning digital film "Ang Daan Patungong Kalimugtong," is seeking the support of the Department of Education to have his movie screened in schools all over the country.

This is according to De Guzman's older brother Roben, who is helping the producers of "Kalimugtong"—Cinelarga and Sampaybakod Productions—achieve this goal.

De Guzman is scheduled to meet with DepEd secretary Jesli Lapus on Tuesday to discuss a possible endorsement, Roben told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview on Friday.

De Guzman is the owner of Cinelarga and Sampaybakod Productions, which Roben described as small film outfits specializing in digital films.

If plans push through, Roben said "Kalimugtong" will start touring Metro Manila campuses before De Guzman brings it to schools around Luzon, and then to Visayas and Mindanao.

According to Roben, 50 percent of the collection from ticket sales will be donated to the participating school. Target audiences are students, teachers and parents.

Roben said he was sure students would relate to the story of the Benguet orphans in the movie, played by Analyn Bangsi-il and Rhenuel Ordono.

"Kalimugtong" tells the story of children of the Kankana-ey tribe, who traverse mountains and rivers to get to school everyday.

As part of the film tour package, De Guzman plans to incorporate lectures on filmmaking or scriptwriting, according to Roben.

De Guzman is a graduate of creative writing at the University of the Philippines. His movies, "Diliman" and "Batang Trapo," have made the rounds of international film festivals.

"Kalimugtong" debuted and competed in the 7th Cinemanila International Film Festival, placing second to Auraeus Solito's "Tuli."

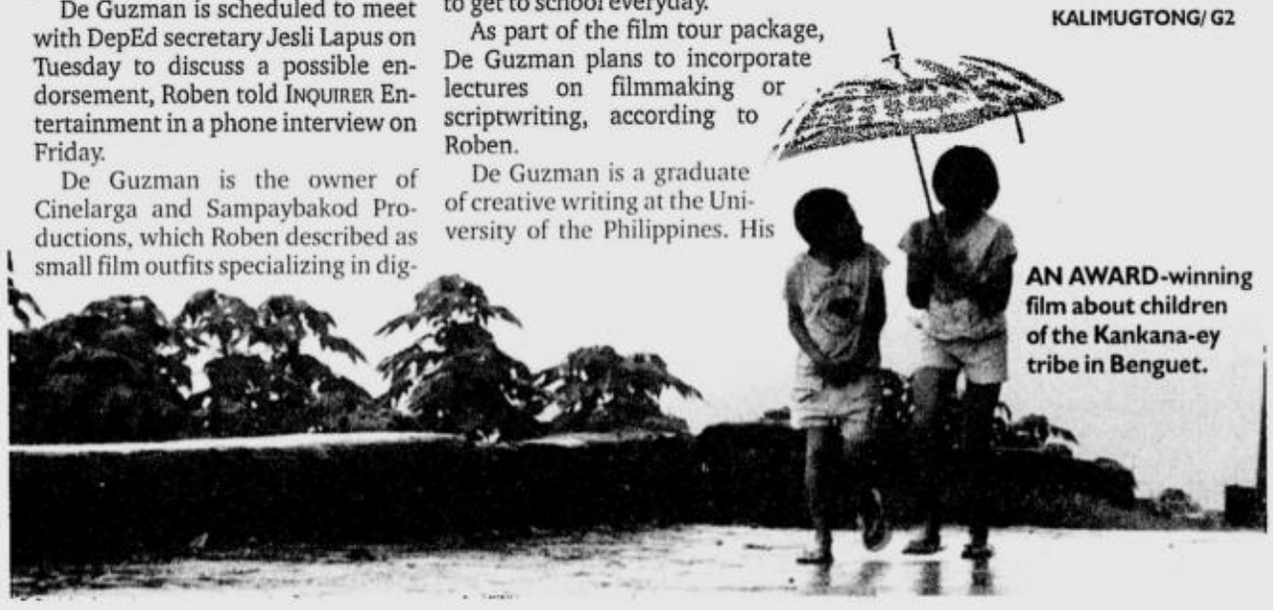
On Aug. 3, the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino bestowed upon De Guzman the Best Director Award for "Kalimugtong." It also won Best Production Design.

At the Star Awards, Bangsi-il won Best Child Performer.

'Kubrador' journey

Meanwhile, Jeffrey Jeturian's "Kubrador" ("The Bet Collector") has received its 16th invitation from the Amiens International Film Festi-

KALIMUGTONG/ G2



AN AWARD-winning film about children of the Kankana-ey tribe in Benguet.

GELLI, Janice and Carmina

5 going on 'forever'

By Nini Valera

"WE'LL GO ON FOREVER," DECLARED GELLI de Belen, co-host of GMA7's morning talk-variety show "Sis."

The show seeks to entertain housebound women. The other hosts are Gelli's sister Janice and their good friend Carmina Villaroel.

Next week, "Sis" marks its fifth anniversary.

"We'll have big stars, new gimmicks, and lots of other surprises," Carmina promised. "Next week will be really special."

Surprises

Janice—calmly tracing patterns on her cross stitch sampler during this exclusive interview with INQUIRER Entertainment on Wednesday—cautioned the bubbly Carmina against talking too much about the week-long anniversary presentation, which starts tomorrow.

"We're not allowed to reveal details," Janice explained.

In fact, she added, the show had been kept going by "this element of surprise."

Janice explained: "Everyday, we offer something different. Viewers never know what's going to happen."

The hosts themselves have had quiet a few surprises.

"We once invited Mystica and Tita Swarding," Gelli recalled. "We didn't know there was animosity between them. We were [stunned] when Tita Swarding suddenly pulled Mystica's hair."

Another tense moment was when a sexy starlet inadvertently exposed one of her breasts during a game. "It popped out of her top," said Gelli.

Fortunately, the scene was somehow cut and the show got no reprimand from the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board.

"But I think the turning point in our show was when we started featuring animals," Janice recalled.

Abandoned dogs were paraded on the show to entice dog lovers to take them in as pets. Snakes have also been featured.

"We even had Chavit (Singson, Ilocos Sur governor) bring his tiger here," Carmina said, laughing.

The show's success appears to be the absence of a formula.

"Did you know that we initially shot the show inside a house?" asked director Louis Ignacio. "We moved to a studio setting because we wanted a live audience."

Two years ago, the show made room for Carmina to join the De Belen siblings.

Best friends

"That was when Gelli went on leave for about two weeks and they needed someone to pinch-hit for her," said Carmina. "In the end, they kept me."

"Gelli and I are real-life best friends," said Carmina. "Janice is a sister even to me."

The chemistry make for some of the liveliest moments on morning TV.

"We don't have to be told what to do," Gelli explained. "And we give each other space. When we have *sungit* days, we keep our distance."

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Ugly divorce

LOS ANGELES— The latest high-profile Hollywood breakup is between Tom Cruise and his studio. Sumner Redstone, whose company owns Paramount Pictures, said the studio was severing its 14-year relationship with Cruise's film production company because "his recent conduct has not been acceptable."

"We like him personally," Redstone told The Wall Street Journal. The Paramount deal, of late, has paid Cruise up to $10 million a year to develop films and operate an office on the studio lot.

He has come under intense scrutiny after he jumped up and down on Oprah's couch, openly advocated Scientology, and chided Brooke Shields for taking prescription drugs. *AP*

DID YOU KNOW...

TOM CRUISE at the Tokyo premiere of "Mission Impossible III" in June. REUTERS

Celebrities shine in exciting

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST SUNDAY, AUG. 20, THE EXCITEMENT level on Channel 2's "U Can Dance" competition was at its highest because the program's first season was having its first Grand Finals showdown.

The original 12 celebrity dance pairs had been cut down to six, and they all did their darnedest to impress the board of judges, which included special guest jurors Vilma Santos and Maricel Soriano.

At first, we thought to ourselves that six pairs seemed to be an unusually large number for the finals. Couldn't they have been cut down to three instead, for a more focused sense of competition?

But there they were, all six pairs, so we had to accept that as a given, and joined the judges in empathetically trying to figure out which tandem did better than the rest.

Nene Tamayo and her partner went first, and they impressed with their determination to put up a good show, and to take risks. Still, it was clear that some of their moves were tentative and nervous.

Jenny Miller and her partner fared better. Jenny looked great and smoking in her itty-bitty costume, and danced her heart out.

Hazel Ann Mendoza and her partner looked similarly determined to win, and took even greater risks on the dance floor. They came off as potential winners in our book.

Then it was AJ Dee's turn to impress the judges with the moves he made with his lovely partner. The most attention-calling part of their routine was when he lifted her aloft with just one hand.

The mood of the competition changed radically when teenager Arron Villaflor performed with his similarly youthful partner. They combined ballroom dancing and hip-hop moves to great, disarming effect. That made them rate high on our "unofficial" scorecard.

Finally, beautiful Maui David and her dance partner strutted their stuff—a bit tentatively, but still to charming effect.

As the jurors took a long time deciding on the winning pair, we observed that all six pairs didn't take the finals for granted, and had obviously worked hard to come up with strong and stylish routines in the tilt's ultimate showdown.

This is a marked improvement on other celebrity dance tilts, where some of the stars turn in lazy and under-rehearsed routines.

In fact, we were appalled when a celebrity once boasted that he ha his number for three hours. Thre should have rehearsed for three d

Anyway, it was clear on the "U finals that all of the pairs had re much longer than three measly h why they were able to shine or floor, and gave the judges a really deciding which pair was the best of the hardworking lot.

As far as we were concerned, the best pairs were Jenny's, Hazel Ann's and Arron's. Thus, we were heartened to see that our personal "final-finalists" all survived the evening's first cut, and were among the tilt's "final-final four," along with AJ.

But, which of our preferred three teams would be declared the winner? We thought that, on point of difficulty of moves executed, it would be a toss-up between Jenny and Hazel Ann, but we weren't disappointed when the judges chose Arron and his petite partner, Nesh Janiola.

Their victory was an upset decision, because they were the tilt's youngest contestants, by far. But we thought that the jurors' verdict was an astute one, because it rewarded the winning pair's youth, freshness and vitality, and could encourage other teen dancers to also "go ballroom."

Feedback

Our piece on Kim Atienza's new mission in support of pets' animal rights has elicited a number of reactions:

Joy A. Serrano observes, "Atienza will have his work cut out for him, because some people here think that pets and other animals have *no* rights. They believe that pets are there just to serve their owners, and should be grateful for whatever scraps are thrown their way. To counteract that attitude is a tall order, requiring a well-thought-out information campaign..."

Edward Sermeña of Makati City points out, "Any help that our TV people can give is welcome, but the bottom line is, as you pointed out, the ordinances upholding animal rights are there, they're simply not being enforced. So, mayors and police chiefs should enforce them. That's the only language the violators will understand..."

New 'Harry Potter' films

A reader wants to know when the next cinematic installments of the hit "Harry Potter" series will be released. Answer: The fifth film, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," will hit

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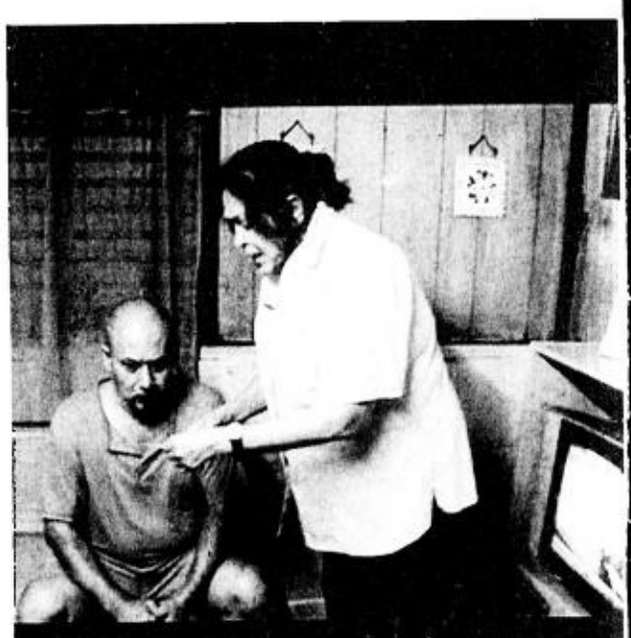

"KUBRADOR"

'Kalimugtong' may . . .

From page G1

val in France, according to producer Joji Alonso. The festival runs Nov. 10 to 19, and the movie will be in competition.

The MLF Films production, which chronicles three days in the life of a jueteng collector, will also compete in the Bangkok International Film Festival, Jan. 26 to Feb. 5.

'Aswang'

"Aswang ng QC," the newest project of independent filmmaker Khavn de la Cruz, will have its world premiere at the International Festival of New Film in Split, Croatia. Featuring Avi Siwa as lead actress, the film is an "ultra-violent ode on serial rapist-killers and the local *aswang* myth," said Dela Cruz.

According to its website, the Croatian festival, set Sept. 25 to Oct. 1, promotes cinema that is "new, innovative, personal, experimental, radical, and subversive, preferably from outside the mainstream."

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screens worldwide next summer, while "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" will be screened at the end of 2008.

Digital circuit

Von Sabio of Quezon City observes that even good digital features don't click with mainstream audiences, and wonders what can be done to make them successful. We believe that an alternative schools circuit should be set up.

Another possibility would be for Cinemalaya supporter Tonyboy Cojuangco to assign one of his Dream cable channels to exclusively screen digital films, both short or feature-length, to make them more popular and influential.

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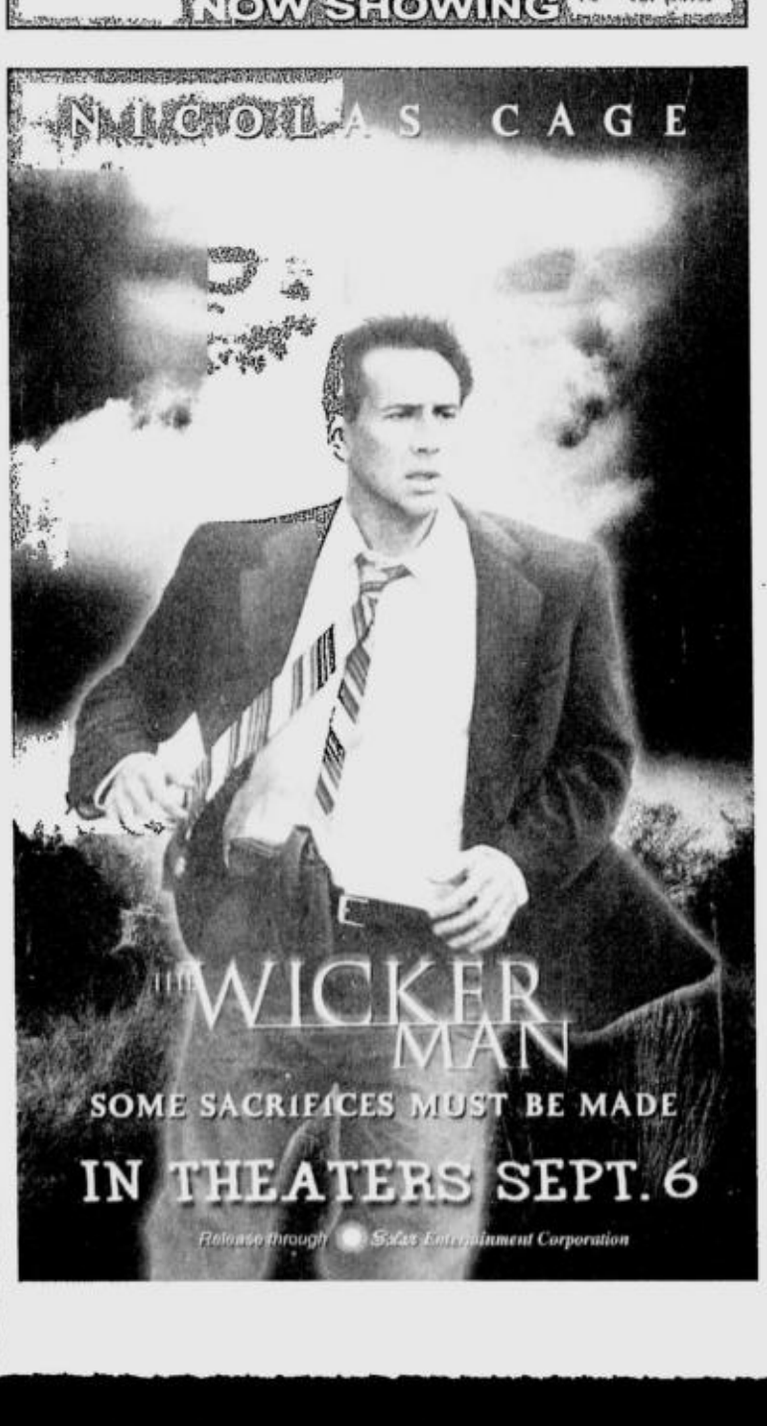

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5 LITTLE MAN
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11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

4 LITTLE MAN
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

5 SUKOB
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

6 HADA
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

7 CLICK
12:25 2:35 4:45 6:55 9:00

8 MORTUARY
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

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9/11 focus of Emmys, airing live on Studio 23 tomorrow

LOS ANGELES—FIVE YEARS AFTER the September 11 attacks, shows like "24" and "Flight 93" are making terrorism, espionage and war the focus of US television's 58th-annual Emmy Awards ceremony.

Before Hollywood's movie machine dared put 9/11 in theaters this year — with "World Trade Center" and "United 93" — TV began dealing with themes that have filled news programs for the past five years.

While an unsurprising big leader with 12 nominations was Fox's hit anti-terror series "24," starring Kiefer Sutherland, three 9/11-related films and documentaries also garnered nominations at this year's Emmys.

Cable channel A and E's "Flight 93," a portrayal of the fourth Al-Qaeda-hijacked plane that crashed in a Pennsylvania field after a passenger uprising, has earned six nominations.

Discovery Channel's "The Flight That Fought Back," telling the same story, picked up one nomination, as did National Geographic Channel's "Inside 9/11." Showtime's "Sleeper Cell," a drama about underground terrorists in the US got five nods.

Conan is emcee

There were six nominations for HBO's documentary "Baghdad ER," a vivid portrayal of the 86th Combat Support Hospital treating wounded US soldiers in Iraq.

"24" raked in nominations in its fifth year, including one for Sutherland, who plays super agent Jack Bauer, for Best Lead Actor in a Dramatic Series, and one for the show itself, for Outstanding Drama Series.

The awards in a total of 27 categories will be announced in a ceremony televised live today (tomorrow, Monday, in Manila, on Studio 23—8 to 11 a.m.; replay at 7:30 p.m.).

Host is late-night TV host Conan O'Brien, himself nominated in the comedy category. He faces competition from the "Daily Show's" Jon Stewart and his correspondent Stephen Colbert, now with his own "Colbert Report." Competing with "24" for Best Drama Series is hospital show "Grey's Anatomy," which had 10 other nominations; "House," another hospital show; "The Sopranos"; and "The West Wing." *AFP*

ROUNDUP

Celebrity boxing

Model Andrew Wolf and actors Bayani Agbayani, Polo Ravales, Christian Vasquez, Paolo Paraiso and Rommel Montano are set to punch their way into Manila Broadcasting Company's (MBC) Celebrity Boxing extravaganza dubbed as "Bakbakan '06" today at the Aliw Theater.

Star City guests with Ride-All-You-Can pop tags will be granted free entrance.

MBC, parent company of DzRH, Love Radio and Yes FM, is the country's largest radio network.

'Hide and Seek'

After his wife is found dead in the bathtub, Manhattan psychologist David Callaway (Robert de Niro) takes his traumatized child Emily (Dakota Fanning) to a big, gloomy country house upstate in "Hide and Seek."

Emily makes friends with someone named Charlie, whom her father believes is imaginary.

The movie airs tonight at 9 on Star Movies.

'Karm Apna Apna'

"Karm Apna Apna" is the journey of a small town girl from a small hamlet of West Bengal whose life throws her into alien terrain, where she struggles with her new circumstances. She comes out triumphant.

The movie, which airs Mondays to Thursdays, premieres Aug. 29 at 9 p.m. on Star Plus.

Pomeranz at book fair

American singer David Pomeranz performs at the opening ceremonies of the 27th Manila International Book Fair at the World Trade Center, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. corner Roxas Blvd. on Aug. 30, 10 a.m.

Pomeranz is an advocate of the book "Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health," written by the late author and humanitarian Ron Hubbard.

"Dianetics has completely rocked my world," says Pomeranz. "It has helped improve my music and career, has made my marriage even stronger and given me such joy and peace of mind that I can't wait to share it with my friends in the Philippines."

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Other prizes in this promo are: 100 Sony DVD Players (DVP-NS51P), 20 Sony Home Theater Systems (DAV-DZ120K), 30 Sony WEGA Theater Systems (MHC-WZ88D), 10 Sony DVD Handycams (DCR-DVD905).

But wait, there's more! Each Sony Sparkling WEGA bought within the promo period automatically comes with an exclusive Collector's Edition CD/DVD of Ms. Sharon Cuneta's gold-certified "Isn't it Romantic?" album.

The grand draw will be on October 27, 2006, at the Sony Philippines Office. If you are one of the lucky winners, you will be notified via registered mail and text message. You can redeem your prize within 60 days from receipt of notification. When you claim your prize, present 2 valid IDs, the official receipt of your Sony Sparkling WEGA purchase, your copy of the warranty card, the registered mail and SMS advisory from Sony Philippines.

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ADVT

Giving away over $1M; fellow Fil-Am beats Cheryl

HOLLYWOOD Foreign Press Association treasurer Jorge Camara, actor Mark Ruffalo and emcee Felicity Huffman at HFPA installation luncheon.

GETTY IMAGES

DIANE Lane and producer Irwin Winkler

LOS ANGELES—WE'RE PROUD OF THE two Fil-Ams who shone at the 58th annual Creative Arts Emmy Awards (a separate event from the prime time Emmy Awards) last weekend at the Shrine Auditorium: **Charles Klapow** and **Cheryl Burke**.

Along with **Kenny Ortega** and **Bonnie Story**, Charles won over Cheryl for their choreography in the Disney Channel's "High School Musical" (which stars **Vanessa Anne Hudgens**, another Fil-Am). He has danced for various singers, from **Celine Dion** to Salt-N-Pepa. Cheryl was nominated twice in the Best Choreography category.

* * *

WHEN the journalists' group that I belong to, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA), recently had its annual financial grants and installation luncheon, I found an excuse to wear my white summer suit.

Usually held in the heat of August, and therefore always a perfect opportunity to get into the rarely used linen suit, the luncheon is when the HFPA gives over $1 million to support film preservation, film schools and other worthy film-related, not-for-profit organizations.

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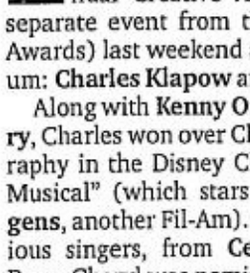


Ruben V. Nepales

Before I left the house, when my daughter **Nikki** saw me in my "*nakasisilaw sa puti*" suit, she had that smile and look that teenage daughters give their dads. I mean the one that says—if Nikki could express it in Tagalog: "*Ang tatay ko—nagmumurang kamatis na* **John Travolta**." She made me change the tan dress shirt underneath into a light blue one. She wanted me to change my tan shoes as well. I put my foot down—pardon the pun—on that one and ignored my budding wardrobe consultant's wisdom.

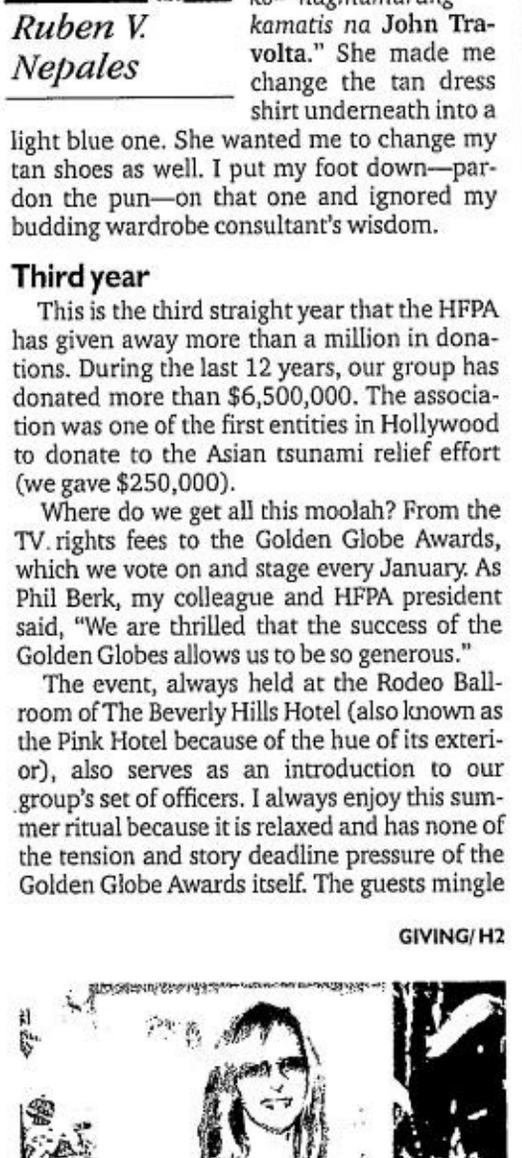
Third year

This is the third straight year that the HFPA has given away more than a million in donations. During the last 12 years, our group has donated more than $6,500,000. The association was one of the first entities in Hollywood to donate to the Asian tsunami relief effort (we gave $250,000).

Where do we get all this moolah? From the TV rights fees to the Golden Globe Awards, which we vote on and stage every January. As Phil Berk, my colleague and HFPA president said, "We are thrilled that the success of the Golden Globes allows us to be so generous."

The event, always held at the Rodeo Ballroom of The Beverly Hills Hotel (also known as the Pink Hotel because of the hue of its exterior), also serves as an introduction to our group's set of officers. I always enjoy this summer ritual because it is relaxed and has none of the tension and story deadline pressure of the Golden Globe Awards itself. The guests mingle

GIVING/ H2



LISA Kudrow

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Giving away over $1M...

From page H1

in the hall as champagne and hors d'oeuvres are served. By the time the ballroom doors are opened, everyone's in a convivial mood.

Here's what The Hollywood Reporter's Martin A. Grove wrote in his coverage of the event (poor guy was working while I sipped champagne): "Thursday's luncheon was almost a mini-Golden Globes with plenty of star power—including such names as (alphabetically) **Annette Bening, Bill Condon, James Franco, Dustin Hoffman, Lisa Kudrow, Diane Lane, Jack Nicholson, Edward James Olmos, Christina Ricci, Mark Ruffalo, Forest Whitaker** and master of ceremonies **Felicity Huffman**. As one very pleased HFPA member I ran into told me, 'We've got about a third of the star power here today that we get at the Golden Globes!' The afternoon's great celebrity turnout, of course, attracted the re dia crowd, which lined the long en hotel and then set up wall-to-wa cameras in the back of the Rodeo R ly, Hollywood's top stars are comfo ing with the HFPA and feel good a it hand out money to good causes."

Well-orchestrated

Martin continued: "It was a well ed, fast-moving affair with plenty chat."

Around the time dessert was served, the check-giving and chores as the host began. Lookin lovely that afternoon, Felicity the actors who accepted the do behalf of the deserving organizat

Jack Nicholson, switching trademark sunglasses to regula he sauntered up the stage. $100,000 on behalf of The Film F Inc., which is committed to res preserving valuable films. Break Joker's grin, Jack quipped, "I wa would just be accepting a check, that I'm comfortable doing—bu ing a speech."

Christina Ricci, she with those sive large eyes, a refreshing presen tually no makeup, accepted $100. Sundance Institute, whose Sunda tional Initiative supports filmm around the world through its pr cluding the Sundance Film Festiv ture Film Program.

Annette Bening, actress and w **ren Beatty**, gladly took a $50,00 FilmAid International, which ma "HFPA Kakuma Peace and Rec Series" that serves Sudanese refugees in Kenya.

Mark Ruffalo, sporting a full goes with his shock of curly ha $30,000 from my colleague **Jorge** behalf of IFP West which mentors n they can break into the film industr

Selfless effort

Extolling IFP West's "Project Inv pairs a minority student with a suc maker, Mark said, "It's a selfless ef fies the stereotype of movie peop and self-absorbed. I know, it's crous." As he said the words "self absorbed," he preened intentiona the audience laugh.

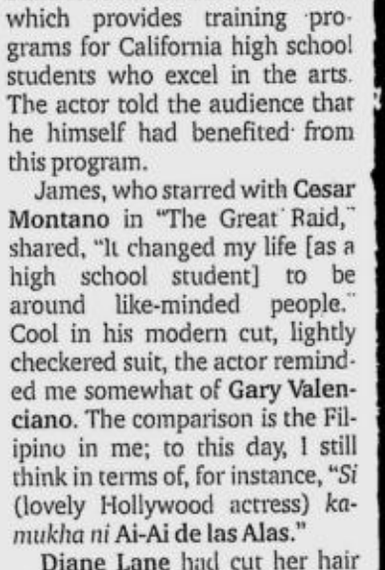
When **Lisa Kudrow** went back t the table next to us after she received a donation for the Inner-City Arts, we saw **James Franco** give her a reassuring, well-done pat on the back. **Forest Whitaker**, a gifted actor who should be seen in more movies, did the acceptance duty for Inner-City Filmmakers.

From the heart

James spoke from the heart when he went onstage to receive $20,000 for the California State Summer School Arts Foundation. which provides training programs for California high school students who excel in the arts. The actor told the audience that he himself had benefited from this program.

James, who starred with **Cesar Montano** in "The Great Raid," shared, "It changed my life [as a high school student] to be around like-minded people." Cool in his modern cut, lightly checkered suit, the actor reminded me somewhat of **Gary Valenciano**. The comparison is the Filipino in me; to this day, I still think in terms of, for instance, "*Si* (lovely Hollywood actress) *kamukha ni* **Ai-Ai de las Alas**."

Diane Lane had cut her hair short, so she didn't quite look like Ai-Ai that afternoon. Fetching in a green and white dress, the "Unfaithful" star collected two $20,000 checks for the American Cinematheque, one for the Golden Globe Award Foreign Language Film Nominees Series (it offers public dialogue with the filmmakers behind the nominated works in that category); the other for "Acclaimed Performers"



DIANE Lane and rising actor Efren Ramirez, who benefited from a mentoring program of one of the non-profit organizations that the HFPA gives grants to.

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6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
7 FIERCE PROPLE
8 MORTUARY
9 OH MY GHOST

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 LITTLE MAN
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 LITTLE MAN
2 CLICK
3 MORTUARY
4 SUKOB
5 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
6 SNAKE ON A PLANE
7 KUBRADOR
8 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
9 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
10 MIAMI VICE
11 OH MY GHOST
12 STORMBREAKER

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 LITTLE MAN
2 SUKOB
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 STORMBREAKER

SM CITY VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 LITTLE MAN
2 MIAMI VICE
3 SUKOB
4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 LITTLE MAN
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 SUKOB
4 SNAKE ON A PLANE

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SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
CLICK
LITTLE MAN
ANT BULLY/JUST MY LUCK
SUKOB

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
THE BREAK-UP
AMERICAN HAUNTING
JUST MY LUCK
LOVEWRECK/ CLICK

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
MIAMI VICE
LITTLE MAN
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
CLICK
OH MY GHOST
SUKOB

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9037681-85
SUKOB
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
OH MY GHOST
LITTLE MAN
CLICK
BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
CLICK
SNAKE ON A PLANE
OH MY GHOST
MORTUARY

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
JUST MY LUCK
STORMBREAKER
LITTLE MAN
SUKOB

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
MORTUARY
CLICK
SNAKE ON A PLANE
OH MY GHOST
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
SUKOB
LITTLE MAN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY MARILAO (044)0332013-17
LITTLE MAN
OH MY GHOST
SUKOB
MIAMI VICE

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SNAKE ON A PLANE
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LITTLE MAN

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SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
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RESERVED
SUKOB
AMERICAN DREAMZ
CLICK
LITTLE MAN
RESERVED
JUST MY LUCK

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
MIAMI VICE
SUKOB
LITTLE MAN
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
THE BREAK-UP
ANT BULLY

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MIAMI
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ANT BULLY
LITTLE MAN

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Our way of thanking you for sharing your life with us.
Promo is from Aug. 14 to Oct. 15 Mondays thru Thursdays. Also applicable every 3 Day Sale (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) on particular mall within the promo period.
FREE movie pass is valid on a specific 60-day period.
See Flyers for details. Per DTI NCR Permit No. 2440 Series of 2006.
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THE MOST TALKED-ABOUT MOVIE OF THE YEAR!
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---Christy Lemire, AP [Associated Press]
THE #1 MOVIE IN AMERICA!
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30,000 FEET IN THE AIR
DO NOT PANIC
SNAKES ON A PLANE
NEW LINE CINEMA

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Gateway MALL FarmersPlaza
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FACE TO FACE IN MANILA
Every P500 purchase at Araneta Center lets you join the promo!
August 25 to September 2, 2006
Westlife concert is on September 4 at the Big Dome
See posters & leaflets for details
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Gateway CinePLEX*10
FULL STADIUM SEATING
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MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 12:35 / 2:55 / 5:15 / 7:35 / 9:55
MORTUARY 2:30 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:0
CLICK 12:25 / 2:45 / 5:05 / 7:25 / 9:45
ANT BULLY 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00
DOLBY DIGITAL EX
SUKOB 12:5 5:1
LITTLE MAN 2:00 / 4:25 / 6:5
ARANETA CINEMA
MALL 5
SNAKES ON A PLANE 12:00 R4 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20
MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 12:10 R4 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30
LITTLE MAN 1:05 / 3:30 / 5:55 / 8:20
OH MY GHOST 12:40 / 2:35 / 4:30 / 6:25 / 8:20
SUKOB 12:00 R2 / 1:50 / 4:00 / 6:10 / 8:20
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LOG ON TO WWW.ARANETACENTER.NET FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES
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JACK NICHOLSON, left, receives a $300,000 check for The Film Foundation, Inc. from HFPA president Phil Berk.

EDWARD OLMOS accepts the check for Nation Association of Lation Independent Producers.

GETTY IMAGES

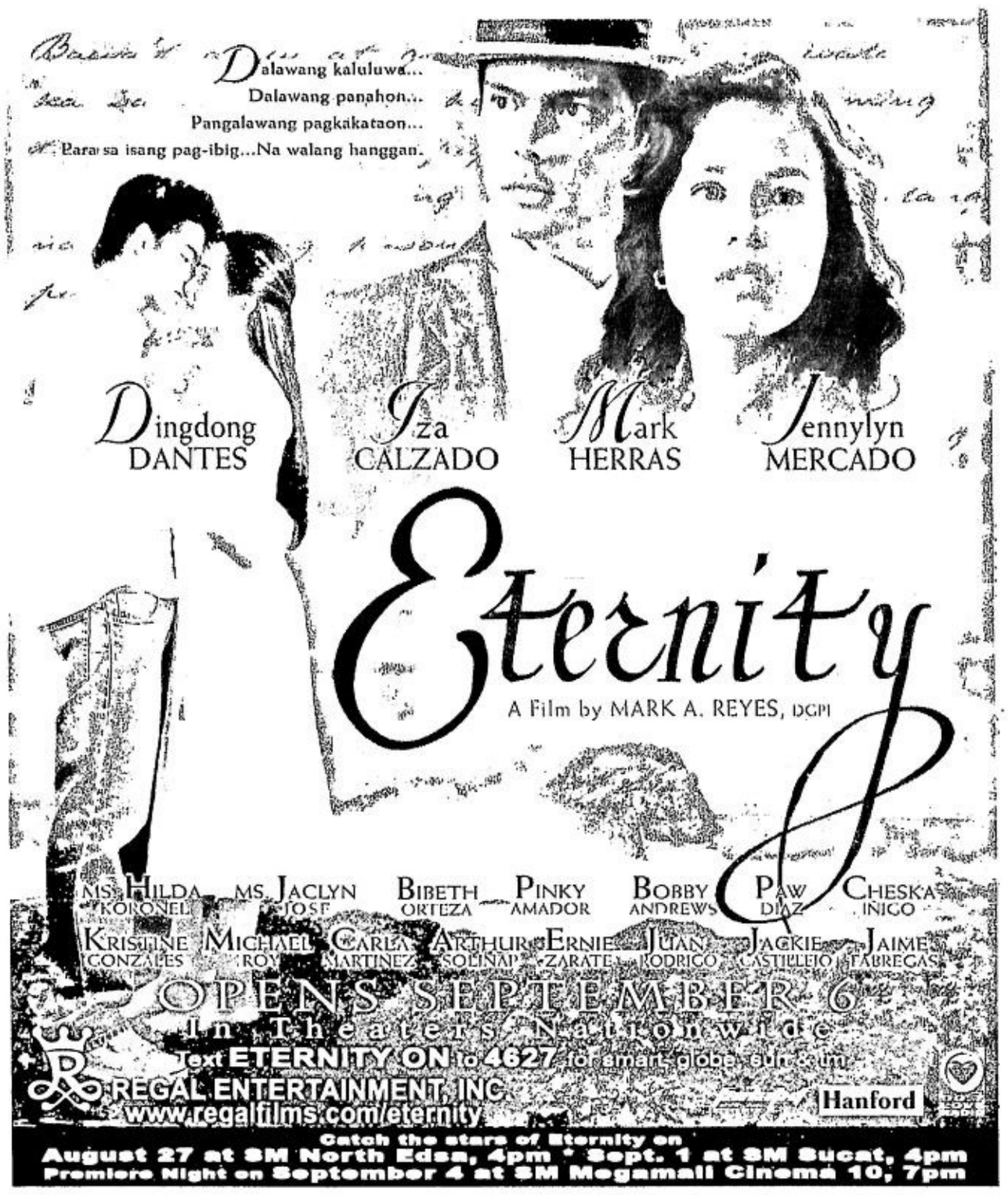
tribute to world cinema leaders.

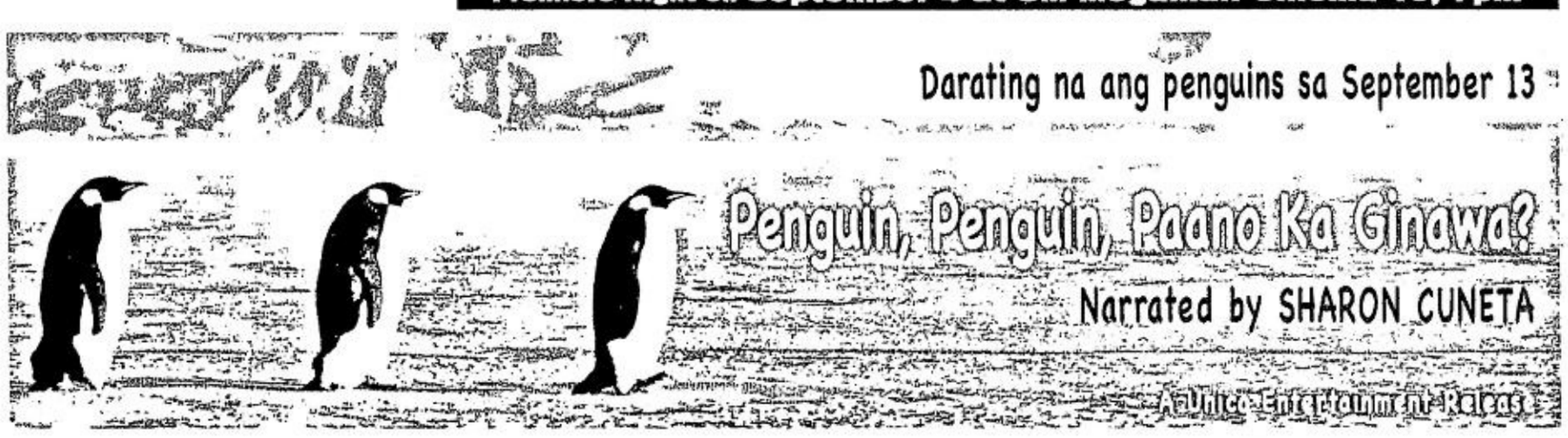
Dustin Hoffman kept the luncheon's jovial mood as he stepped up for the Los Angeles Conservancy, dedicated to the preservation of the surviving movie palaces in LA and the appreciation of classic films. Ai-Ai herself has performed at the Orpheum Theatre, one of the majestic old movie houses that the Conservancy helped restore to its former glory.

Incidentally, in one of our previous interviews with Dustin, he suddenly asked a senior colleague of mine, "You're still here?" He thought we were wallowing in all this money from the Golden Globe TV rights. So Dustin was surprised that this elderly journalist had not retired. The actor was reminded that the HFPA is a non-profit organization so we don't receive a single cent from the TV rights.

GIVING/ H4

CHRISTINA Ricci





glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	2 SNAKES ON THE PLANE	3 CLICK	4 LITTLE MAN			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 SNAKES ON A PLANE	2 CLICK	3 THX THE ANT BULLY GUARANTEED SEATS				
	4 FREEDOMLAND	5 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	6 LITTLE MAN	7 SUKOB			
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 LITTLE MAN		2 SNAKES ON THE PLANE				
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX SNAKES ON THE PLANE 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX LITTLE MAN 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20, 11:25 GUARANTEED SEATS				
	3 AMERICAN DREAMZ 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 CLICK 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS				
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX LITTLE MAN		2 SNAKES ON THE PLANE				
	3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	4 AMERICAN DREAMZ	5 CLICK				
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M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 SNAKES ON THE PLANE		2 SUKOB				
	3 OH MY GHOST	4 LITTLE MAN	5 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND				

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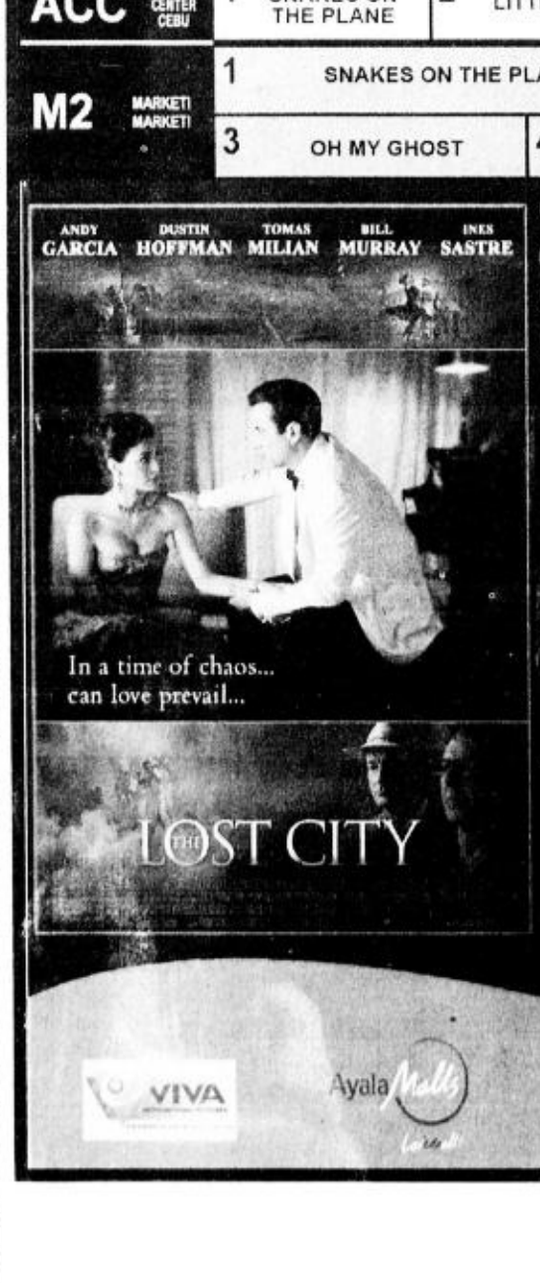
Cirque Imago August 25 to 27, 2006	Cirque Imago August 18 to 20
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
5th Philippines Robotics Olympiad August 26, 2006	Cirque Imago August 22 to 24, 2006

GREENBELT — Jazz Nights at GB 2 August 16, 23 & 30, 2006

Greenbelt Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents Walt Disney's ALADDIN JR. at REP's Globe Theater - Aug. 26, Sept. 3, 9, Oct. 14 & 22 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM — Ode To The Pasig River June 27 to August 27, 2006 For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org



OPENS AUGUST 30 *exclusively* AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS

Ayala Malls CINEMAS

A film by Academy Award-nominee Andy Garcia

THE LOST CITY

An epic adventure of historic intrigue & timeless romance.

"Two Thumbs Up." - Ebert & Roeper

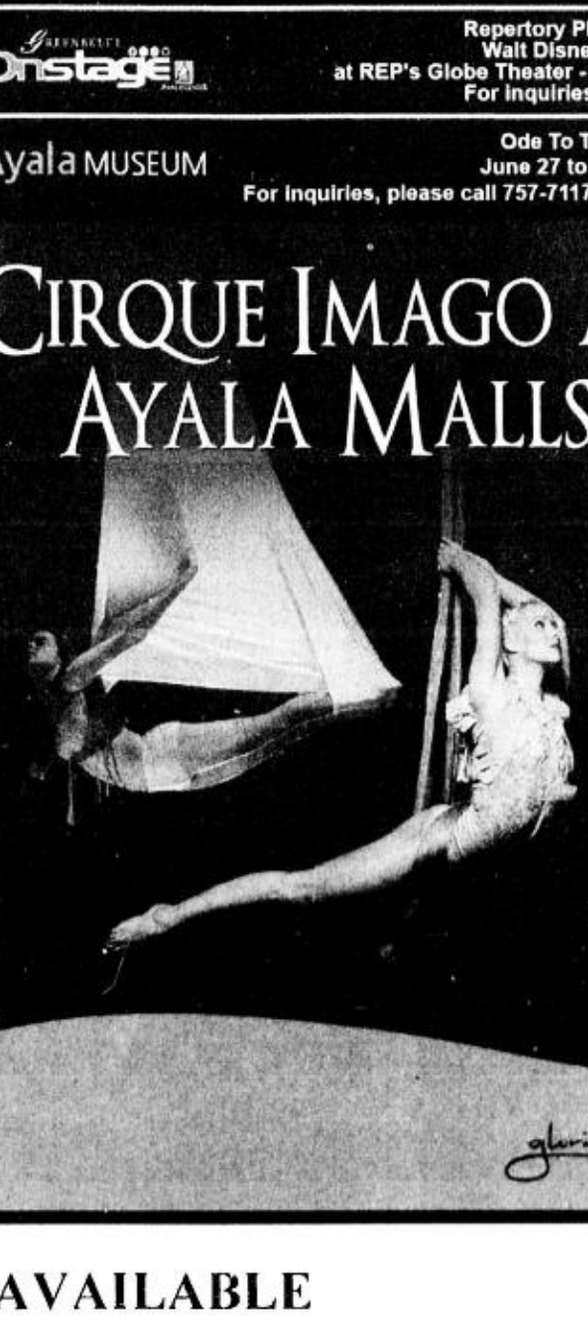
"Sumptuous, Intoxicating...A Caribbean Doctor Zhivago." -Steven Holden, New York Times

"The best movie I've seen so far this year" -Todd Hill, Newhouse News

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

VIVA Ayala Malls glorietta GREENBELT

CIRQUE IMAGO AT AYALA MALLS



See the world-renowned acrobatic group, Cirque Imago as they perform never before seen stunts, only at the Ayala Malls.

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August 19-20 • 11am, 3pm and 6pm
Customer Service Hotline: 842-2782, 772-1860

Ayala Center Cebu
Activity Center
August 11 • 3pm and 6pm
August 12-13 • 11am, 3pm and 6pm
Customer Service Hotline: (032) 231-5342 loc. 324

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Activity Center
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glorietta ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET!

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ANNETTE Bening

JAMES Franco

Giving away over $1M...

From page H2

To Felicity's amusement and mock embarrassment, Dustin imitated the actress' earlier near collision with a big replica of the Golden Globe Award trophy as she stepped back to give the spotlight to a speaker. He thanked his table mate Diane for gamely taking the vegetarian lunch he had ordered because the cream sauce that came with the dish "ruined it for me."

Dustin also thanked the HFPA for holding the luncheon at the Rodeo Ballroom because, he said, it reminded him of the bat mitzvah (Jewish coming of age ceremony for girls) that he and his family had held in the exact same room for his daughter.

Jewish ring

He joked that he will be quick with his remarks because a bat mitzvah is going to be held at the room right after the luncheon. Continuing his Jewish riffs, the Golden Globe award winning actor quipped that he will pronounce HFPA in two syllables, "Hif-pah," to further speed up the proceedings, plus the abbreviated term has a "Jewish ring to it."

And so **Edward James Olmos** also thanked the "Hif-pah" for its donation to the National Association of Latino Independent Producers, Inc., which trains budding Latino filmmakers and supports film projects. Earlier, on our way into the ballroom, Edward, who is a distinguished humanitarian committed to various causes, told me about his project, a documentary on musicals.

Various other film-related charities and educational institutions also received financial grants.

And then it was over. I stepped out into the golden California sunshine, very glad to be a member of "Hif-pah."

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

DUSTIN HOFFMAN, Felicity Huffman and Jack Nicholson

ACTOR-DIRECTOR Forest Whitaker and his wife, actress-model Keisha Whitaker, walk the red carpet.

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HUGH JACKMAN and SCARLETT JOHANSSON
TOGETHER IN A DANGEROUSLY ROMANTIC COMEDY
THE PERFECT MAN.
THE PERFECT MATCH.
THE PERFECT LOVE STORY?
SCOOP

ON AUGUST 30, SOMETHING WILL MAKE THEIR HEARTS BEAT AS ONE!
TONI GONZAGA and SAM MILBY
You Are the One
DIRECTED BY CATHY GARCIA-MOLINA

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2006

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THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
wishes to announce its
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID ON
Name of Contract : Services of a Financial Advisor for the development of the CCP Real Property

The Cultural Center of the Philippines now calls for the submission of Letter of Intents (LOIs) from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing for Services of a Financial Advisor for the development of the CCP Real Property. Interested bidders must submit their LOIs during the Pre-Bid Conference on September 08, 2006 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on September 19, 2006. Only those that are short listed will be entitled to submit bids.

The CCPBAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted Letter of Intent and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). The criteria and rating system for short listing are:

Bid Price (50%)	– the amount quoted by the bidder which shall cover the total cost of the services to be provided by the Financial Advisor
Track Record (30%)	– the organizational qualifications and past work experiences of the bidding company
Qualifications of the Key Staff members (20%)	– educational background, company position and work experiences of the key staff members to be assigned to the project

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of RA 9184. In accordance with IRR-A of RA 9184, only bids from short listed bidders will be opened. The process of the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 the contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification

The CCP shall evaluate bids using the Quality-Cost based evaluation/selection procedure. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat (c/o Cecilia E. Funtinilla) at the address given below starting September 05 from 1:30 pm to 6.00 pm

The CCP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

BAC Secretariat
Cecilia E. Funtinilla
3/F CCP Tanghalang Pambansa (CCP Main Bldg.)
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. 632-832-3667, 632-832-1125 local 1106/1107
Fax No. 632-551-5960
Website www.culturalcenter.gov.ph

(PDI–Aug. 27 & Sept. 3, 2006)

Let's Study in Japan

Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) in the Republic of the Philippines 2007-2008

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has started the implementation of the Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) through the assistance of the Government of Japan for Japanese Fiscal Year 2002.

The objective of the JDS Project is to provide Philippine nationals with opportunities for obtaining master's degree at the Japanese universities in order to support human resource development policy of the Government of the Philippines, and eventually to extend and strengthen the bilateral relationship between the Philippines and Japan.

The JDS Project targets young people in public sector who are expected to play leadership roles in the Philippines and people in private sector who are expected to contribute to the development of the Philippines market economy

Degree to be obtained and Field of Study:
1. Degree: Master's Degree (2-2.5 years courses)
2. Field of Study (number of scholars to be accepted)
   2-1. *(for public sector)*
   -Public Administration (10 persons)
   -Economics (8 persons)
   -Information and Communication Technology (3 persons)
   -Business Administration (2 persons)
   2-2. *(for public and private sectors)*
   -Business Administration (2 persons)
3. Language of Instruction: predominantly English

Common Agenda for Each Field of Study:
For JDS project in the Philippines, the "Common Agenda" has been settled for each field as follows:

Public Administration
- Building Institutional Capacity for Better Governance
- Advancing Decentralization and Regional Development

Economics
- Ensuring Balanced and Stable Fiscal Management
- Promotion of Sound Market and Industries

Information and Communication Technology
- ICT Policy to Create Wider and Advanced Usage

Business Administration
- Providing Sound and Attractive Business Environment

Allowances for JDS applicants and fellows:
1) Testing fee for IELTS and limited medical examination Fees.
2) Limited transportation and accommodation allowances for selection stages.
3) Limited transportation and accommodation allowance during pre-departure orientation including full-time Japanese language training in Manila for 2 months from April 2007

Application
-Application Documents are distributed at
-JICE JDS Project Office, or
-Can be downloaded at http://sv2.jice.org/jds/ (website will be available from 21st August)

Qualification Requirements:
1) A Filipino Citizen
2) Below 40 years old as of April 1, 2007. (Those who were born on/after April 2nd 1967)
3) Civilian Employee
4) Bachelor's degree relevant to the target fields except for ICT field, which applicants should have bachelor's degree in ICT or equivalent is required
5) Has not been awarded foreign scholarship for Master's degree
6) Currently employed with at least 2 years working experience at the time of nomination
7) Has a performance rating of at least "very satisfactory" at the time of application

Selection Procedures
-First Selection:
Documentation Screening by accepting Universities
-SCS Interview
-Second Selection:
English Examination(IELTS), Basic Math Test
-Third Selection
Technical Interview by professors of the accepting universities
-Fourth Selection
Comprehensive Interview by O/C members

Deadline for Application
Not later than 16:30hrs on October 25, 2006
Late submission and incomplete application documents shall not be accepted.

Where to submit
Application forms and required documents must be submitted either personally, by mail, or courier to JICE JDS Project Office.

For further information, inquire from:
JICE JDS Project Office in the Philippines
(Mon to Fri, 09:00 to 12:00, 13:30 to 16:30)
Unit 2-F1, Island Plaza Salcedo, L.P. Leviste Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City, Philippines
*TEL: 02-7533261
*Official Web Site: http://sv2.jice.org/jds/

Executing Agency
National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA- Scholarship Affairs Secretariat)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Baguio Teachers Camp, Department of Education, through as Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Procurement of Security Services
Location : Baguio Teachers Camp Compound
Contract Duration : One (1) year
Approved Budget : P46.90/hour

Prospective bidders must have experience in undertaking a similar project in 2003 to present. The Eligibility Check/Screening and the Preliminary Examination of Bids will use the nondiscretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid will be conducted.

Particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contracts are governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 4 - 17, 2006, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
2. Pre-bid Conference	September 18, 2006, 10:00 a.m.
3. Submission of Letter of Intent and Application for Eligibility	September 26 until 12:00 noon.

Bid documents are available only to eligible bidders upon payment of a nonrefundable amount of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) to the Baguio Teachers Camp Cashier.

The Baguio Teachers Camp assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bid.

For more details, please call Lovenia R. Gorospe, Assistant Superintendent, Bids and Awards Committee Chairman with tel. nos. 442-2659, 442-6032 and 442-4417 and cellphone no. 09175072162.

(Sgd.) **JESUS LAZO TABERDO, PhD, CESO III**
Director IV
Officer-In-Charge, Teachers Camp and
Adviser, National Educators Academy of the Philippines

(PDI – Aug. 27 & Sept. 3, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)** is inviting interested and legitimte contractors to apply for eligibility and to submit bid proposals for the supply of the following: **1) CMTS Quality of Service Monitoring Project** and **2) IT Equipment**, for the commission. The approved budget for CMTS Quality of Service Monitoring Project is **P5,459,000.00** and **P3,390,000.00** for IT Equipment.

Registration requirements can be secured from **Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod**, Head, NTC BAC Secretariat, NTC Bldg., BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, beginning **23 August 2006**, to be submitted not later than **6 September 2006, 5:00 P.M.**, through the NTC-BAC Secretariat.

Notification of registered suppliers and issuance of bid documents to registered suppliers shall be from **11-15 September 2006** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) and Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00), respectively.

Pre-bid Conference will be on **19 September 2006 at 2:00 P.M.** for item (1), and **20 September 2006 at 2:00 P.M.** for item (2) at the NTC Office, NTC Bldg., BIR Rd., East Avenue, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission and opening of the bids for **Item (1)** will be on **18 October 2006 at 2:00 P.M.** and **20 October 2006 at 2:15 P.M.**, respectively. Bidders shall submit **four (4) separate sealed envelopes; two (2)** envelopes containing the **technical component** of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy, and **two (2)** envelopes containing the **financial component** of the bid, one (1) duly marked as Original and the other Copy. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned in the above-specified address.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/ execution in accordance with **Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.**

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation/ process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **JAIME M. FORTES, JR.**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – August 20 & 27, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites Consultants to apply for eligibility and shortlisting and if found eligible and shortlisted, to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Consultancy Services
Brief Description	Preparation of Request For Tenders (RFT) Documents and Bid Management for the development of the Commission's Automated Spectrum Management System (ASMS)
Approved Budget For the Contract	P250,000.00
Source of Funding	Unprogrammed Fund, FY 2005 General Appropriation Act (GAA), R.A. 9336.

The list of minimum requirements is indicated in the Eligibility Form. Eligibility of prospective bidders shall be checked using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Shortlisting of eligible Consultants will be done based on the following criteria: experience of the Consultant, qualification of personnel and current workload. Only five (5) eligible bidders shall make up the shortlist. The evaluation procedure to be adopted shall be *QBE*.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Submission of Letter of Intent and Application for Eligibility	22 Aug. - 1 Sept. 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	28 Aug. - 1 Sept. 2006
3. Submission of Eligibility requirements	7 September 2006
4. Results of Eligibility Check	8 - 14 September 2006
5. Results of Short Listing	15 September 2006
6. Issuance of Bid Documents	18 September 2006
7. Pre-bid Conference	21 September 2006

The Eligibility Screening Form will be available and may be secured from Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod, BAC Secretariat, NTC Building, BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City, upon the submission of a letter of intent. Submission and results of eligibility shall be in the same office.

Bid Documents will be available only to shortlisted bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) to the National Telecommunications Commission, Cashier.

The National Telecommunications Commission assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **JAIME M. FORTES, JR.**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – August 20 & 27, 2006)

Looking for skillied
aquaculture engineer
to manage a 40 hectare fishpond in Masbate.
Please send your resumé at **jcl.druet@busmail.net**
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Academic Year 2007

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I. Pediatric Cardiovascular Medicine Department
- 3 years Residency in General Pediatric accredited by PPS
- at least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics

II. CV Anesthesiology Division
- 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)

III. Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Division
- 3 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS (Board eligible)

RESIDENCES: (For Medical Board Passers)

I. CV Radiological Sciences Division

II. Biological and Clinical Laboratory Division

III. Nuclear Medicine Division
- 1 year Fellowship Program is available for the above Residencies

General Requirements:
1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Weighted Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (with at least one letter written by the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous Training Programs (duplicate letters or photocopies signed by different Doctors will not be accepted)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2"x2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency

- Deadline for submission of application is on August 31, 2006
- Academic Year 2006 starts on January 1, 2007

Please address your communications to:
ARISTIDES G. PANLILIO, M.D.
Department Manager
Department of Education, Training and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236, 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

(PDI – July 16, 22, 23, 29, 30 Aug. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 & 28, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education (DepEd)
Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project
(National Project Management Office)
5/F Bonifacio Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

DepED

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date August 15, 2006
Loan No. PH-P200

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED) has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the supply and delivery of Furniture to Selected Secondary Schools in the Philippines.
2. The DepED through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of school furniture for classrooms, science laboratories, home economics and industrial arts of the different secondary schools in the Division Offices of North Cotabato and Zamboanga del Sur, following the schedules below:

Division Office	Start of Issuance of Bid Documents	Time & Date of Pre-Bid Conference	Time and Date of Bid Opening	Venue	Telephone No.
North Cotabato	Aug. 28, 2006	Sept. 4 2006 at 10:00a.m.	Sept. 14, 2006 at 10:00a.m	DepED Division Office of North Cotabato, Kidapawan City	(064)278-4144
Zamboanga del Sur	Aug. 28, 2006	Sept. 4, 2006 at 10:00a.m.	Sept. 14, 2006 at 10:00a.m	DepED Division Office of Zamboanga del Sur, Pagadian City	(062)214-1991

3. Bidders are required to submit bid for the complete quantities of all the furniture items intended for the selected schools in the Divisions of North Cotabato and Zamboanga del Sur, per schedule of requirements of the bidding documents.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain complete information about the proposed project upon submission of a Letter of Intent and acquire the bidding documents from the Division Bids and Awards Committee (DBAC) Offices at the telephone numbers as identified in paragraph 2.
5. Bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on the date stated in paragraph 2 upon payment to the Cashier of the Division Office of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) only.
6. Sealed bids, together with the bid security of equivalent percentage to the total bid amount as specified in ITB-7 page 5 of the Instruction to Bidders, must be delivered to the Division Office at the time, date and place as indicated in the above paragraph 2. Said bids will be opened immediately for reading in public in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.
7. The Division BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality therein and award the furniture packages to one or more bidders.

(Sgd.) **CARMEN SUMALINOG**
DBAC Chairman
Zamboanga del Sur

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO ARIAGA**
DBAC Chairman
North Cotabato

(PDI – Aug. 20 & 27, 2006)

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB NO.: 08-03-2006 MIM

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), through its Branch Bids and Awards Committee (BBAC), invites contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Project : Two (2) lots Janitorial Services

LOT	LOCATION	APPROVED BUDGET
1	Casino Filipino – Mimosa Required number of Janitors:18 Janitors	Two Million Five Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Ninety Eight & 72/100 (Php 2,557,098.72)
2	Casino Filipino – Laoag Required number of Janitors:12 Janitors	One Million Two Hundred Seventy Four Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Nine & 44/100 (Php 1,274,689.44)

Source of Funds : Internally Funded

Only contractors duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered contractors must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila., Tel. No. 526-0573 or at the Branch Procurement and Property Office, Casino Filipino – Mimosa.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*	
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 25, 2006 – September 18, 2006	
2. Pre-Bid Conference	September 5, 2006	(2 pm)
3. Submission of Bids	September 19, 2006	(2 pm)
4. Opening of Bid	September 19, 2006	(2 pm onwards)

VENUE: Casino Filipino - Mimosa

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of ***One Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Eight & 55/100 Pesos (Php 1,278.558) for Lot 1 and Eight Hundred Pesos (Php 800.00) for Lot 2.*** In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BBAC Secretariat.

PAGCOR assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the Branch Secretariat Unit, Casino Filipino – Mimosa.

(Sgd) **ALFREDO C. GELLA**
Chairperson, Joint BBAC Mimosa & Laoag

(PDI – Aug 27 & Sept. 3, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

REBECCA T. DIGA

IS ACCUSED OF ESTAFA UNDER CRIMINAL CASE NO. 26315-R WITH THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF BAGUIO CITY, BRANCH 7.
A WARRANT WAS ISSUED BY THE COURT FOR HER ARREST.

ANYBODY WHO COULD GIVE INFORMATION AS TO HER WHEREABOUTS, PLEASE CALL
09189076844

(PDI – Aug. 27, 2006)

BANK ACQUIRED ASSET FOR SALE

VACANT RESIDENTIAL LOT

within Bgy. Manibong, Lambunao and Brgy. Carvasana, Calinog, Iloilo

Total Area: **532,933 sqm.**
(more or less, covered by 15 titles)

Indicative Price: **P13,416,729.90**
(The indicative Selling Price covers only the 55.945% ownership/shares of the Bank on the property)

For inquiries, please call:
ASSET MANAGEMENT & DISPOSITION DIVISION
Tel. Nos.: 811-9797

Offer to purchase are subject to Bank's approval
Prices are subject to change without prior notice to the public
Property is on "as is, where is" basis

UCPB

NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

In behalf of Fan Jian Le, holder of Certificate of Copyright Registration and Deposit issued by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, The National Library, Manila, with residence at Skyrise Hotel corner Aguilar Street, Recto, Manila hereby serves notice of the existence and registration of LFT Essential, which was officially registered on July 13, 2006 with Registration No. M 2006-385. LFT Essential is an international brand of lamps and lighting fixtures which has generated acceptance in Asia, particularly in the Philippine market from 2001 continuously up to the present.

Any violation of the copyright Registration and Deposit Right granting priority to our client Fan Jian Le, will render the violator/s thereof liable to us for damages, among others.

(Sgd.) P.M. CASTILLO
No. 7 21st Ave., Cubao, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. No. 912-1771 • Fax No. 912-1765

(PDI – Aug. 27, 2006)

ATTENTION
PROPERTY OWNERS

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Tel: 411-5983 or 912-0179

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that **LOURDES "YOYEN" PROTACIO-DE JESUS** (whose picture appears above) is **WANTED BY THE AUTHORITIES** for numerous counts of **QUALIFIED THEFT** and **COMPLEX CRIME FOR QUALIFIED THEFT THRU FALSIFICATION OF COMMERCIAL DOCUMENTS.**

The Regional Trial Court of Makati, Branch 56 have issued warrants for her arrest.

A reward will be given for any information that will lead to her capture. Those who have information regarding her whereabouts may contact Ligon Solis Corpus Mejia Law Firm at 8940601, 8945737 and 8175672.

(PDI–August 20 & 27, 2006)

Virgin of Peñafrancia festivities in Metro Manila

THE PEÑAFRANCIA Devotees Association of Metro Manila, headed by its President, Dr. Charito-Felipe, is inviting everyone to the Annual Metro Manila Festivities in celebration of the Feast of the Virgin of Peñafrancia, the miraculous Patroness of the Bicol Region.

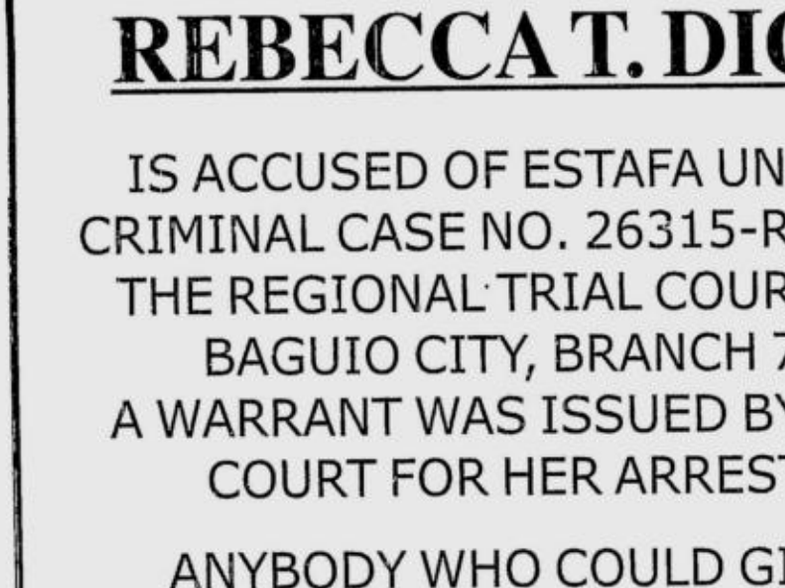
After a motorcade procession at 2:30 p.m.on Wednesday, Sept. 7 through the major streets of Mandaluyong and Makati, a Triduum of Novena Prayers and Masses for "Ina" will be held at the St. Andrew the Apostle Church at Nicanor Garcia St. (Reposo St.) Bel-Air, Makati, every 6 p.m. on Sept. 7, 8, and 9.

After the closing novena prayers, at 2 p.m., on Sunday, Sept. 10, a motorcade bearing the Image of the Virgin of Peñafrancia will start at the St. Andrew the Apostle Parish Church to the Central Post Office Building, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila. From there, a procession at 4 p.m. to the Manila Cathedral will follow, with the female devotees and volunteers taking turns in carrying the Image of "Ina".

A concelebrated High Mass at the Manila Cathedral, led by Bishop Nestor C. Cariño, will highlight the festivities at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 10.

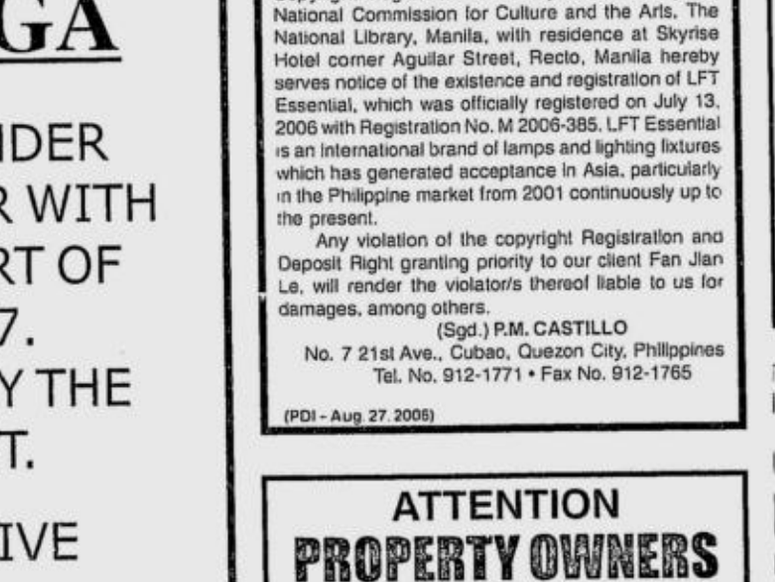
All devotees are invited to join in honoring and thanking "Ina" in these Triduum of Novenas, Processions and Masses.

For inquiries, please call the Peñafrancia Devotees Association's Secretariat at 531-5177, 531-9430, 531-5906 and 531-6158.



FRIENDS IN THE SAME HOBBY

Friends In the Same Hobby (FISH), in partnership with Shangri-La Plaza, is holding a tropical fish exhibit and competition on Sept. 4-10 at the Grand Atrium of Shangri-La Plaza. The event entitled "Aquarists Reunited", is open to all tropical fish hobbyists nationwide. Categories are : Flowerhorn, Cichlids, Goldfish, Betta and Fancy Guppy. Other event highlights include: Tropical Fish Exhibit, Fish Drawing Contest, Fish Costume Contest, and Seminars on various subjects concerning the hobby. For more details, you may contact us at 0917-8FISHER or 0922-8FISHER; or you may visit www.fishinc.net. This event is brought to you by: Animal Scene; Philippine Daily Inquirer; Fish & Co.; Bio Research; Viking; Resun; Sera; Ocean Free; Hai Yang; Pet Stop; Kois & Ponds; Jebo; Pet One; Theater Works; Pentel; Trumpets, Inc.; Mad Science; Supported by: BFAR; Direct Aquatic; Reef Check; Marine Aquarium Council; Aquamundo; Dynamic Ultra Tech, Inc.; Lamb's Marketing; Letty's Petshop; Petpals' Haven; Chingmix; Skaters; Pet Zone; Chinatown Pet; Henry's Super worm; Hactel Corp.; Manila Aquatic Center and virtualedgar.com.



NCO GROUP NEW FACILITIES INAUGURATED

NCO Group (Philippines) Inc recently inaugurated its new facilities at the ELJ Communications Center in ABS-CBN Compound, Quezon City . Leading the ribbon-cutting ceremonies were Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte (third from left) and NCO Vice President Elek C. Toth (extreme right) assisted by Bgy. Captain Xyrus Lanot (South Triangle, QC), Councilor Bolet Banal (QC District 3), Councilor Rommel Abesamis (QC District 1). The affair formally opened NCO's spacious recreational facilities for its employees as a true manifest of its concern for employee welfare, as well as additional operations floor to accommodate the company's rapidly expanding global business process outsourcing services. NCO (Philippines) is a member of NCO Group Inc which is headquartered in Horsham, Pennsylvania, USA. Its best-in-class, results-driven reputation, strong financial track record and proven business model make NCO the global choice for BPO solutions. NCO has operations in the US, Canada, United Kingdom, Barbados, Puerto Rico and Asia.

NFA's PALLGU program raised buying price of palay

KORONADAL CITY - SOME 20,407 bags of palay procured under the National Food Authority's Palay Marketing Assistance for Legislators and Local Government Units (PALLGU) will provide palay farmers of South Cotabato an additional P1.50 per kilogram on top of the agency's buying price of P10 per kilogram for palay.

Governor Daisy Avance Fuentes has allotted P1.5 million from the local government's calamity fund to subsidize the additional premium of P1.50 per kilogram bringing the buying price of palay to P11.50 per kilogram.

Under the PALLGU program, legislators and local governments may set an additional premium on top of NFA's buying price to augment the farmers' incomes.

NFA regional director for region 12 Ernesto Macasinag said the subsidy provided by the local government of South Cotabato was able to help at least 177 individual farmers and 13 farmer organizations in the province.

For more information on NFA's PALLGU program, the public may send their inquiries through the Text NFA at 0917-6210927.

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RESIDENTIAL

SAN JUAN – Addition Hills	MIN BID
1. *3-Sty w/ 2-levels B'ment Resl T'hse/Unit-G,Goldlane Exec Hms # 208 Ortega cor L Mencias Sts LA-75 / FA-250 (nr Cardinal Santos Hosp) *owned by iBank	8,293,000
ANTIPOLO, RIZAL (Lots)	**MIN BID**
2. * Res'l. Lot / Lot 3 Block 6-A Salford St (nr.cor Bristol St) Town & Country Est, Sta.Cruz / LA-663 (along Sumulong Hi-way) *owned by iBank	4,416,000
3. L 20 B 17, Jerusalem St, Palmera Hills,Ph-5,Brgy Uulan/LA 120 Via Tikling Junction & Melendres Subd)	299,000
4. L 23 B 10, Cottonwood Hts Bayugo / LA 266 (nr Sumulong)	1,332,000
5. L 21 B 2, Birchwood St, Cottonwood Hts, Bayugo / LA 355	1,778,000
6. Lot 47 Blk 18,Park Ridge Est Ph 3 (via Valley Golf) LA 811	1,852,000
7. L 17 B 1, Beverly St, Sta Barbara 1 Mission Hills Colaique/LA 1,021 (nr Pines City)	3,692,000
ANGONO, Rzl. (via Antipolo)	**MIN BID**
8. Lot/L6 B2, Mills St,Sta Monica Classic Est, Ph 3, Mission Hills Brgy Colaique, LA 540 (near Pines City)	1,700,000
QUEZON CITY	**MIN BID**
9. * 3-Sty Resl Townhse / Unit 3 Trafalgar Villas, F Dela Rosa St, Loyola Hts LA 83 / FA 190 (nr Ateneo – Gate 3) * owned by ibank	6,000,000
10. 3-Sty Thse/Unit R Sentosa Hts # 18 Sct Bayoran St, South Triangle LA 182 / FA 391 (between Sct Tuazon & T. Morato, near Hotel Rembrant)	8,000,000
11. Hse & Lot / # 19 Balabac St Araneta Vill, Brgy Dona Imelda LA-777, FA-348 * w/ Lis Pendens (near Quezon Inst & SM Centerpoint)	10,500,000
12. H&L/# 269 M Aquino St Banlat Rd,T Sora LA 120 / FA 191 (near NPC / NIA Subdivision)	1,350,000
PARANAQUE CITY	**MIN BID**
13. * 2-Sty w/ attic & s'pool/L60 B1 Lourdes St,Teowille Subd,Sn Dionisio LA 392 / FA 291 (via Sucat Rd & near Tahanan Vill) * owned by ibank	5,000,000
MAKATI CITY - Kingswood Twr	**MIN BID**
P. Tamo cor V. Cruz Extn, near Shopwise	
14. Condo /Unit 4-C, Twr B, 3BR, 2T/B & 1-Prkng slot FA 77/Prkng 12 5 (unit is facing V Cruz Extn & Mkti CBD)	3,425,000
15. Condo /Unit 14-E, Twr B, 3BR 2T/B, maid's rm FA 77 / Prkng 12 5 (unit is facing V. Cruz Extn & Mkti CBD)	3,425,000
16. Penthse / Unit P2F, Tower B 28th & 29th flrs / FA 154	7,208,000
17. Penthse / Unit P3F,Tower B 26th & 27th flrs / FA - 154 #1656 Penafrancia cor D. Oliman Sts, Valenzuela	7,208,000
18. * Condo w/ prkng, Kikusui Star Condominium, Unit 5-A / FA 243 * owned by ibank	6,700,000
CAVITE – Dasmarinas, Salitran	**MIN BID**
19. * 2-Sty w/ Rfdeck H&L/L5&6 B Agustina Village / LA 388 FA 939 (nr Velmans Schl & St. Angela Montessori) * owned by iBank	6,200,000
Orchard Res'l. Estates and Golf & Country Club - Salitran, Dasmarinas, Cavite	
FAIRWAY LOTS	
20. Lot 49 Blk 50 / LA 582	2,212,000
21. Lot 50 Blk 50 / LA 627	2,383,000
22. Lot 46 Blk 50 / LA 630	2,394,000
NON - FAIRWAY LOTS	
23. Lot 12 Blk 38 / LA 653	1,959,000
24. Lot 35 Blk 37 / LA 687	2,061,000
25. Lot 06 Blk 45 / LA 1,085	3,255,000
CAVITE - Molino III, Bacoor	**MIN BID**
Madelaine Place, Springville Subd.	
26. Lot / Lot 8 Blk 1 / LA 117	582,000
27. Lot / Lot 10 Blk 3 / LA 123	611,000
28. Lot / Lot 18 Blk 6 / LA 132	656,000
29. Lot / Lot 19 Blk 7 / LA 132	656,000
Central Phase 2, Springville Subd. (Lots)	
30. L 4 B 1, near ClubHse / LA 122	861,000
31. L 5 B 1, near ClubHse / LA 232	1,636,000
32. L 3 B 2, near ClubHse / LA 97	684,000
33. L 4 B 2, near ClubHse / LA 114	804,000
Washington Manor, Springville Subd.	
34. Lot / Lot 2 Blk 2 / LA 154	1,020,000
CAVITE- Brgy. Palangue, Naic	**MIN BID**
Mango Orchard Res'l. & Farm Estates	
35. Lot 8 Blk 19B / LA 1,890	1,890,000
36. Cor Lot 1 Blk 24 / LA 1,624	1,868,000
CAVITE – Carmona (Lot)	**MIN BID**
37. L 28 B 4, Ph 1, St Andrew St Manila Southwoods,Cabilang Baybay LA 450 (near Gate 1) * w/ Court Decision in favor of Unionbank	3,005,000
38. L16 B1 Grand Cypress Rd / LA1,224	6,577,000
MUNTINLUPA – Alabang	**MIN BID**
San Jose Vill. (infront of Alabang Town Cntr)	
39. Lot / Lot 264 (Pcs 4946), St Joseph St / LA 526 * w/ Court Decision in favor of Unionbank	3,810,000
TARLAC (via Hacienda Luisita)	**MIN BID**
40. 2 Sty H&L / L 7 B 18, Family Park Homes, Brgy Cut-Cut II San Miguel / LA 62 / FA 40	230,000
SAN MATEO,RIZAL-Bo.Patilis	**MIN BID**
41. *Lot / B 15, LA 40,171	1,607,000
42. *Lot / B 16, LA 40,171 * No Right Of Way	1,607,000
NUEVA ECIJA - Cab. City	**MIN BID**
# 529 Pag Asa, Daan Sarili (near LTO)	
43. Lot / Lot 3 A 5 / LA 1,847	401,000
44. Lot / Lot 3 A 4 / LA 1,847	401,000
BULACAN – Plaridel	**MIN BID**
Brgy. Lalangan - Plaridel Heights	
45. Cor Lot / L 2 B 47, LA 355	1,243,000
46. Cor Lot / L 13 B 7, LA 404	1,414,000
47. Cor Lot / L 2 B 38, LA 411	1,439,000
48. Lot / Lot 25 Blk 8, LA 350	1,155,000

RESIDENTIAL

BATANGAS – Canyon Woods	MIN BID
49. * Res'l T'Hse / L24 B22, Bristle Cone St, Ph 1, Brgy San Gregorio Laurel / LA-200 / FA-127 (nr SMC Training Cntr) *owned by iBank	4,318,000
Colina Subd – Sn Pedro, LAGUNA	**MIN BID**
Brgy.Sn.Antonio (nr Toll gate & Filipinas Golf)	
50. Lot / Lot 53 Blk 1 / LA 50	290,000
51. Lot / Lot 8 Blk 3 / LA 50	290,000
52. Lot / Lot 13 Blk 3 / LA 50	290,000
53. Lot / Lot 2 Blk 4 / LA 50	290,000
54. Lot / Lot 3 Blk 4 / LA 50	290,000
55. Lot / Lot 52 Blk 1 / LA 70	406,000
56. Lot / Lot 54 Blk 1 / LA 80	464,000
57. Cor Lot / Lot 8 Blk 4 / LA 84	504,000
58. Cor Lot / Lot 9 Blk 3 / LA 89	534,000
59. Cor Lot / Lot 10 Blk 3 / LA 92	552,000
LA MAREA - Sn Pedro, LAGUNA	**MIN BID**
nr Sn Pedro Toll Gate – Sn Antonio *owned by ibank	
60. * Lot / L 2 B 5, Ph 3 / LA 180	1,242,000
61. * Lot / L 4 B 5, Ph 3 / LA 197	1,360,000
62. * Lot / L 1 B 4, Ph 3 / LA 207	1,429,000
63. * Lot / L 2 B 4, Ph 3 / LA 207	1,429,000
TAGAYTAY - over looking Taal Lake	**MIN BID**
nr Tagaytay-Sta. Rosa Leg Rd & across Divine of Charity	
64. *Lot / Lot 2B1,Tagaytay-Calamba Rd, Sn Francisco LA 1,171 *owned by ibank between Sta. Rosa Lag. Short-cut & Aguinaldo H-way	11,000,000
65. Lot 8, Tagaytay Calamba Rd. Tolentino West LA 2,156 *w/ Lis Pendens	20,000,000

COMM'L. / AGRI'L.
(SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL)

MUNTINLUPA CITY	MIN BID
66. * Commi Condo Unit/Unit 1908 19th flr, Richville Corporate Tower Alabang-Zapote Rd, Madrigal Bus Park, Alabang / FA-59 * owned by iBank	4,193,000
PARANAQUE CITY	**MIN BID**
Dama De Noche St, United Indl, (UPS-1V) Sn Dionisio	
67. *Indl Lot w/ Whse/L 3B2/LA1,072	9,718,000
68. * Indl Lot w/ Warehouse / Lot 6-A LA 1,803 / FA 1,720 (near Leslie Food) * owned by ibank	16,345,000
Across Chinese Temple along Coastal Rd, Tambo	
69. * Commi Lot,L1 B5,Asiaworld City / LA 1,559 * owned by ibank (nr Marina)	33,700,000
70. * Commi Lot,L2 B5,Asiaworld City / LA 1,400 * owned by ibank (nr Marina)	32,200,000
PARANAQUE – San Dionisio	**MIN BID**
71. Lot-1-B & 1-C / Net LA-9,562 (back of SM Sucat & access) Beside Shell) w/ Lis Pendens (no right of way	25,161,000
QUEZON CITY – Libis	**MIN BID**
IBM Plaza,Eastwood City-beside Citibank	
72. * Offc Condo w/ prkng,Unit 8A FA 166 * owned by ibank	8,900,000
QUEZON CITY	**MIN BID**
73. Building / Lots 8 & 9 Blk S 27 Timog Ave LA 1,380 FA 1,500 (nr Unionbank Br & GMA-7) *on Lease	70,000,000
74. W'house / 185 Roosevelt Ave S F Del Monte / LA 5,641 FA 3,454 (infront of Watch Twr)	140,000,000
75. Warehouse / # 138 Gen Luis cor Pasacola Rd, Nagkaisang Nayon, Novaliches LA 49,504 / FA 23,384	300,000,000
MAKATI CITY	**MIN BID**
Brgy. Pinagkaisahan, nr EDSA, Kalayaan & The Fort	
76. Comm'l / Res'l Lot / L 16 B 14, # 3904 Quingua St/LA204 (beside Forbes Park)	6,000,000
77. Comm'l / Res'l Lot / L 17 B 14, # 3904 Quingua St/LA204 (beside Forbes Park)	6,000,000
78. Comm'l / Res'l Lot / L 18 B 14, # 3904 Quingua St/LA204 (beside Forbes Park) #1656 Penafrancia cor D. Oliman Sts, Valenzuela	6,000,000
79. * Condo w/ prkng/ Kikusui Star Condo,Unit G-A/FA93 *owned by ibank on lease	3,100,000
80. * Condo w/ prkng/ Kikusui Star Condo Unit G-B/FA85 *owned by ibank on lease	2,800,000
Millenium Plaza- Mkti. Ave cor Eduque St	
81. Condo Unit / 5/F, FA 261 (near former International Schl)	17,765,000
MANILA – Divisoria (KP Twr.)	**MIN BID**
82. Condo, 2/F, CM Recto Ave cor Juan Luna St / FA 658 *on Lease	28,792,000
VALENZUELA CITY	**MIN BID**
83. Whse / Lot 13 Templanza St D Pedro Vill, Marulas LA 2,540 FA 3,314 (near Savory Rest)	18,209,000
84. Indl Lot w/ 2 Whses (14&16) Barracks, Canteen,Guardhse Lot 1075 D 1 C, Plastic City # 6 T. Santiago St, Canumay-West / LA 9,923 / FA 7,096	39,703,000
85. Industrial Lot / Lot 382 C Plastic City Housing,Canumay LA 25,798 (via T Santiago & Pinagbayanan Sts)	45,000,000
CAVITE - Tanza, Bo. Tres Cruces nr Transville Subd, via Trece Martires	**MIN BID**
86. Agri Lot / Lot-2931 (Rs-1273) LA 40,127 * w/ Adverse Claim & No Right Of Way	5,000,000
TARLAC CITY – Poblacion	**MIN BID**
Panganiban St. - across iceplant	
87. Lot / Lot 4 A 1 / LA 373	5,390,000
88. Lot / Lot 4 A 2 / LA 373	5,390,000
89. Lot / Lot 4 A 3 / LA 374	5,405,000
90. Lot / Lot 4C, Rizal St/ LA 759	8,094,000
SARIAYA - QUEZON PROV.	**MIN BID**
91. Agri Lot w/ resl H&L, Whse & Piggery/Lot 6181 A 5 A 1 A 1 D, E,F,G,I & Lot 6181 A 4,Psd 4A 001202, Bo Sampaloc/ LA 101,038, FA 9,277 (along the Hi-way) * with Lis Pendens	45,053,000
NUEVA ECIJA - Cab. City	**MIN BID**
# 529 Pag-Asa, Daan Sarili (near L.T.O.)	
92. Agri Lot / Lot 3B / LA 37,041	2,366,000
93. Commi Lot w/ Whse & Offc Lot 2H / LA 2,260 / FA 580	5,098,000

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3BR 3.3M FA:125 LA:130 2STY NR SM SUCAT/NAIA STRONG H2O 09175021688 1M D/P 50K/mo

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1% w/out taking car 5315577

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1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

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2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE ESTEFANIA ALDABA-LIM HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AMONG HER HEIRS BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC GERVACIO B. ORTIZ JR. OF MAKATI CITY AS PER DOC. # 123 PAGE # 27, BOOK # XXIII SERIES OF 2006. (PDI Aug. 27, Sept. 3&10, 2006)

STUDY NOW PAY LATER
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0917-7924104 / 0922-8148324

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ANTONIO R. HERNANDEZ has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 472, Page No. 95, Book No. 102, Series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty. Jose L. Sta. Ana of Marikina City.
(PDI-August 13, 20 & 27, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late REMEDIOS MANIULIT YOUNG was extrajudicially settled among her heirs by virtue of the Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement and Partition executed by them on July 27,2006 before Notary Public Atty.Ma. TERESA GOMEZ-VALDEZ of Quezon City City as per Doc.No. 287,Page No.59,-Book No. 23,Series of 2006 of her Notarial Register.
(PDI Aug.13,20 & 27'2006)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late BENIGNO ANGELES BERNARDO has been extrajudicial settled among his heirs as per Doc no.381, Page no.77 Book no.XVI, Series of 2006 under Notary Public Atty. Julian T. Tutanes of Mandaluyong City.
(PDI - Aug. 13, 20 & 27, 2006)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE LUCAS MORFE AND DONATA LAINO MORFE WAS EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AS PER DOC. NO. 80; PAGE NO. 16; BOOK NO. I AND DOC. No. 81; PAGE NO. 17; SERIES OF 2006 OF NOTARY PUBLIC JUAN VICTOR VALDEZ
(PDI- Aug. 13, 20 & 27, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late REMEDIOS LASTRELLA has been adjudicated to Vilma Alviso per Doc # 396 Page # 40 Book # 812 Series of 2006 by Notary Public Atty Hector Bl Centeno of Quezon City.
PDI-August 13, 20 & 27, 2006

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the PORFIRIO C. MACATANGAY who Died on JANUARY 7,2006 had settled among his heirs Per Extra-judicial Partition of the estate of PORFIRIO C. MACATANGAY as Notared as Doc No. 430; Page No.86 and Doc No. 431;Page No:87 ;Book No: 109;Series of 2006 of the notarial Registry Book of ATTY. ANGELITO V. MARAÑA of Lipa City(PDI- Aug. 20,27 & Sept.3,2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS
Notice is Given of lost Bank of PI Certificate No. 215543 Issued To FRANCIS V. VERGEL DE DIOS.If No Contest Received New Certificate will be Issued
(PDI Aug. 13,20&27,2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice given SMC Stock Cert 01630204107 issued to TERESA EVARISTO Lost if no contest received new cert be given(PDI 20&27,'06)

Notice is hereby given that Valley Golf Stock Cert. No. 2773 for 1 share issued to Manano G. Ong was reported lost. If no contest received, new certificate will be issued.
-PDI-Aug. 20, 27 & Sept. 3, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that ALI Stk Cert Nos. 24155 & 99018071 in the name Frank Gonzalez & Cert #24156 in the name Frank gonzalez &/or Eduardo de Tavera & GLO Stk Cert #11252, 8800001865 in the name Fineas Bebeco Inc. are lost. If no contest received,new stock cert. will be issued.
(PDI-Aug.20, 27 & Sept. 3,2006)

PERSONAL

Thank You Holy Spirit
From Santos Family

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EXPD HS MATH & SCI TUTOR MS LUCHIE 725-2903

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MARKETING ASST 23 - 28 y/o Female Mktg / Mgmt Grad Jr ACCOUNTANT 23 - 28y/o Female Acctg / Finance Grad Pls Call Cristy at 3612133 or 4120219 for interview apptmt

CAREGIVER-3026893

BATCH '90 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RIZAL HIGH SCHOOL Batch 1990 will hold its 2ND General & Induction of officers on Sept. 2, 2006, 5:30 p.m at RHS Alumni Hall. Call 0915-9370383 Irene Hintoloro for details.

POEA
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722-1155

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"I can do all things in Him who strengthens me."

Our Dearly Beloved

LIBRADA "BETTY" GOTANCO

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace & Goodness of the Lord on the 19th day of August 2006 at the age of 74.

She is survived by her husband **Benito**; sister **Lory**; daughters **Joji, Gina** & **Gwen**; sons **Glenn, Gil, Gary** & **Guy**; in-laws **Junn, Maribel, Winnie, Tina** & **Rachel**; grandchildren and relatives.

We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Chapel Garden Suite (GS) in Guadalupe, EDSA, Makati City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, August 30, 2006 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 9:00 am Holy Mass.

Firmo Ocampo Liwanag, Sr.

Has peacefully joined our Creator on August 24, 2006 at the age of 71.

His loving wife **Ching**, and children: **Marita** & **Cadoy, Susan** & **Santy, Andy** & **Christine, Mackie, Boogie** & **Jayvee, Xandra** & **Weston**, his grandchildren **Marielle, Jomari, Junie, Carlos, Hazel, Franco, Migi, Claire, Claudia, Felix** and **Nathan**, and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Assumption Chapel of the Our Lady of Beautiful Love Parish in Merville Park Subd., Parañaque. Masses are held at 8:00 pm daily.

Interment will be announced today, 27 August 2006, at the 8 pm Mass.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

RODRIGO A. CORELLA

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 21, 2006 at the age of 82.

His loving wife **Gertrudes L. Corella**, chidren and in-laws **Marylene** & **Wency, Rodrigo Jr.** & **Zeny, Edgar** & **Bimbim, Lilibeth** & **Arthur, Lary** & **Viki, Danilo** & **Elizabeth, Enrico** & **Annabelle, Rodger** & **Wilma**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at his residence in Aparri, Cagayan.

Interment will be on August 30, 2006 after the 8AM Holy Mass at the Aparri Public Cemetery.

Edilberto "Eddie" C. Bayan

24 February 1935 - 27 August 2004

On this day, we lovingly remember, a man whose presence overwhelmed us with joy, but whose beautiful memories now drown us with grief.
A man who lightened up our everyday lives, with his caring words and gentle shove.
If only we could see this man one last time, a tight hug and a warm kiss we'll give him,
To ease our sadness and help us . . . to finally move on,
To celebrate his union with our Lord,
masses will be held in eight of his much loved churches.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

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KALAW: 522-4406, 527-3342, **MEGAMALL:** 635-0219, 635-0220

CLASSIFIEDS

CAMARINES SUR III ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(CASURECO III)
San Isidro, Iriga City
Fax No. (054) 299-2382

INVITATION TO BID

The Camarines Sur III Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CASURECO III) thru 5% reinvestment fund would like to procure various electrical materials and equipment to be used in our coverage area.

LOT I	–	LINE HARDWARES
LOT II	–	LINEMAN TOOLS & EQUIPT.
LOT III	–	FUSE CUT OUT & FUSE LINKS
LOT IV	–	DUPLEX WIRE & TW WIRE
LOT V	–	WEDGE CONNECTOR
LOT VI	–	REPAIR OF RECLOSER (single phase)
LOT VII	–	KWH METER SINGLE PHASE
LOT VIII	–	DIST. TRANSFORMER (brand new)

Bidders are required to submit their original company profile during the pre bid conference on August 28, 2006 at exactly 10:00 a.m. at the Coop function room. Accreditation fee is Php 500.00 and certification is Php 100.00. Bid documents will be purchased at Php 3,000.00 (non refundable). Bidding proper will be on September 01, 2006 at exactly 1:00 p.m. in the afternoon.

CASURECO III reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive defect or informality therein, or accept any bid or offer, which it may consider, to be advantageous and beneficial to CASURECO III.

(Sgd.) **MR. PERFECTO M. GASCON**
BAC Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **ENGR. PEDRO M. PRESTADO, JR.**
General Manager

(PDI–August 25 & 27, 2006)

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Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance
TransCo

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Rehabilitation of Perimeter Fence at Batangas S/S

Brief Description:

Some portion of the existing perimeter fence at Batangas S/S approximately 120 linear meters is proposed for rehabilitation. The work includes installation of additional layers of CHB, top guard and re-construction works.

[TRANS-06-RPFB-EG-21]

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM***, through the *Internal Cash Generation (ICG)* intends to apply the sum of ***Nine Hundred Thousand Four Hundred Twenty One Pesos and 41/100 (Php900,421.41)*** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *the Rehabilitation of Perimeter Fence at Batangas S/S.* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** now invites potential Bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and apply for eligibility for the ***Rehabilitation of Perimeter Fence at Batangas S/S.*** Bidders should possess a valid ***PCAB license*** with ***License Particular of at least: "Category D & C, General Building"*** and ***Registration Particular of at least: "Small B, Building and Industrial Plant"***, respectively, have completed a similar contract involving supply of all labor, materials, supervision necessary for the ***construction of any concrete structures.*** The value of which should be at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of eligibility documents shall be on the same date of the opening of Eligibility documents: ***September 12, 2006, 1:00 P.M.*** at the address mentioned in the next succeeding paragraphs. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document. Completion of the works is required by ***forty (40) calendar days.***

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A 9184, only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, starting ***August 28 to September 11, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Php1,000.00***. They shall submit their accomplished Eligibility documents on or before ***September 12, 2006, 1:00 P.M.*** at the stated address. Eligibility Screening shall be held on ***September 12, 2006, 1:30 P. M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room B of the stated address.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** *Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 A.M.*** to ***5:00 P.M.*** on ***September 22, 2006.***

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee ***Php1,000.00***. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting ***September 22, 2006, 8:00 A.M.- 5:00 P. M.***

Deadline for submission of bids is on ***October 4, 2006, 1:00 P. M.*** at the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the prescribed form indicated under Section 27.2 of R. A. 9184. Bid opening shall be on the same date, ***October 4, 2006, 1:30 P.M.*** at the ***OAVP Conference Room B, Transco-SLOM.*** Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation – South Luzon Operations & Maintenance
Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)
San Vicente Biñan, Laguna 4024
Mr. Ruben G. Castuera – BAC Chairman
(02) 981-4576 to78 local 4086; 4094; 4053
rgcastuera@transco.ph
(02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4007
www.transco.ph.

(Sgd.) **RUBEN G. CASTUERA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Aug. 27 & Sept. 4, 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) SECRETARIAT OFFICE
Tel. No. (632) 455-2758 e-mail: vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of one (1) unit AutoCAD plotter

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)*, through its *2006 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P355,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *supply and delivery of one (1) unit AutoCAD plotter.* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NFA* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of one (1) unit AutoCAD plotter.* Delivery is required within 45 days from receipt of Notice of Award. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders (ITB)**.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NFA-BAC SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P2,000.00 in the form of *CASH.* The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *September 5, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.* at the *NFA Conference Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Conference Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City* on September 19, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *September 19, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.* at the *NFA Conference Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NFA* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity	*NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Person	*Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
Address	*101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*
Telephone No.	*(632) 455-2758*
e-mail address	*vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Fax No.	*(632) 455-2758*
Website	*www.nfa.gov.ph*

PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI–August 20 & 27, 2006)

JOB Market

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2006
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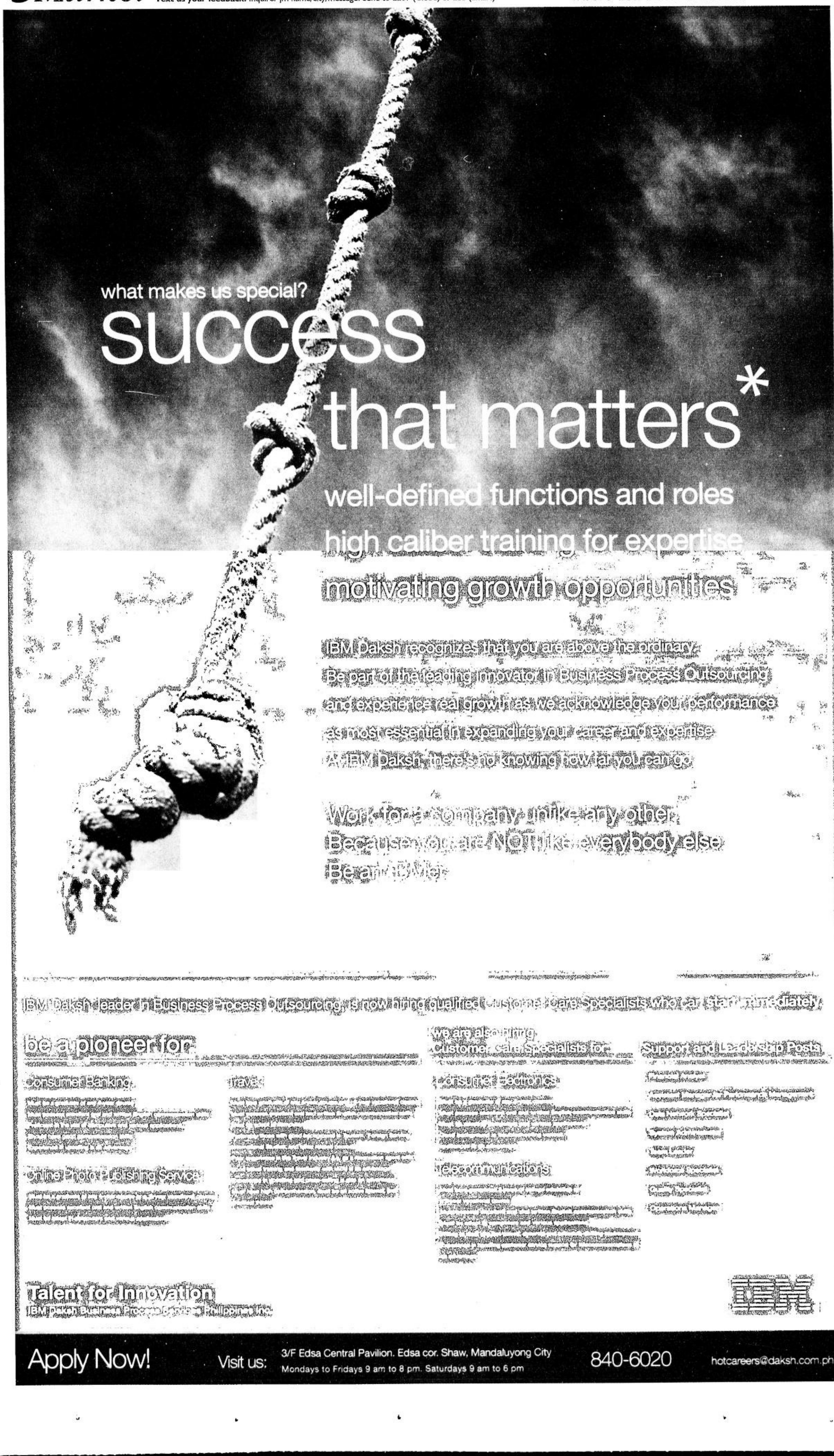

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Outbound Sales Representative International.
Apply on: August 29, Tuesday

Qualifications
- Graduate of any 4 year course or 2 year Associate degree; undergraduates accepted as long as 2 years of college have been completed
- Must have extensive sales background (minimum of 1 year)
- Open to having sales goals
- Possesses excellent verbal command of the English language
- Computer literate and proficient in keyboarding
- Highly motivated and extremely flexible
- Has high tolerance for stress
- Willing to work on shifting schedules and willing to be assigned at the Fort or Garnet (Ortigas)
- Customer oriented, enthusiastic and prompt
- Has initiative to learn with keen attention to details

Outbound Sales Representative International.
Apply on: August 30, Wednesday

Qualifications
- Minimum of 2 years experience in Computer Help Desk support and B2B document trading. EDI and XML experience preferred.
- Good to above average verbal and written command of the English language
- Strong analytical skills; motivated and extremely flexible with high tolerance for stress
- Customer oriented, enthusiastic and prompt

Outbound Sales Representative International.
Apply on: August 31, Thursday

Qualifications
- Graduate of any 4 year course or 2 year Associate degree; undergraduates accepted as long as 2 years of college have been completed
- Possesses good verbal command of the English language
- Computer literate and proficient in keyboarding
- Highly motivated and extremely flexible
- Has high tolerance for stress
- Willing to work on shifting schedules and willing to be assigned at the Fort or Garnet (Ortigas)
- Customer oriented, enthusiastic and prompt
- Has initiative to learn with keen attention to details.

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- Willing to render long hours when necessary
- Team player

GRAPHIC ARTIST
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Fine Arts, Multimedia Arts or any related degree
- Proficient in the following graphic software - Adobe - Photoshop 7+; Image Ready 7+, Illustrator 8+, Macromedia Flash MX
- Knowledge in Pixel Art Design and Animation - Character design, User interface design, Icon design, SMS Logo and picture design
- Must have basic knowledge in formation architecture (design principles)
- Highly creative (can think out of the box)
- Project management exposure, Intermediate knowledge in Actionscript programming (Macromedia Dreamweaver MX); Knowledge in XML, HTML, WML, web design and development (HRML, CSS) an advantage but not a must
- Must be a team player
- Genuine interest in work involving generation of mobile content and graphics such as MMSWallpapers, Screensavers, Themes, Operator logos and Picture Messages
- ***NOTE: Interested Graphic Artist applicants must send samples of their work with their resumé***

CUSTOMER CARE TEAM LEADER
- Graduate of any Bachelor's Degree
- 2+ years experience in Customer Care in at least a supervisory/managerial capacity
- People oriented leadership
- Computer and mobile phone savvy
- Excellent customer service skills and strong drive to provide customer service and assistance
- Good interpersonal relation skills
- Must possess good English and Filipino communication skills
- Good analytical skills
- Willingness to work in a fast-paced environment is a must

CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVE
- Graduate of any Bachelor's Degree
- Good customer service skills and strong drive to provide customer service and assistance
- With actual customer service experience
- Computer and mobile phone savvy
- Good interpersonal relation skills
- Must possess good English and Filipino communication skills
- Willingness to work in a fast-paced environment is a must

TECHNICAL WRITER
- Bachelor's degree in IT or similar field.
- At least 1 year work experience in an IT company
- Able to work collaboratively within a cross-functional team environment to create and maintain technical documentation
- Ability to work independently and to manage concurrent projects with tight deadlines
- Excellent time-management, planning and writing skills
- Interested in debugging code and has solid understanding of the software development process
- Knowledge of MS Word, Powerpoint, Excel and Lotus Notes
- Web publication experience is an advantage
- Familiarity with programming languages such as Perl, Php, Python and Java is an advantage

ASST. MARKETING MANAGER
- At least 2 years relevant experience in a brand/product management, marketing & sales (FMCG an advantage); prior client handling experience a must
- Exposure to P&L responsibility a definite advantage
- Experience in the following an advantage - Telco environment, lifestyle products
- Must be willing to do field work and passionate to acquire new businesses for the firm
- Must be a strategic and analytical thinker
- Should be comfortable working with numbers and analyzing numeric data
- With good presentation and negotiation skills
- Proactive, has initiative and flexible to the demands of the job.
- Fast learner, flexible, enthusiastic and passionate. A Team player.

Interested applicants please send your comprehensive resumé with photo to Jobs@IGateway.ph; indicate on subject line: PDI - position applied for - full name.

The British Embassy Manila is currently seeking to fill the following vacancy

ASSISTANT TRADE & INVESTMENT MANAGER

Applicants should be university graduates with a degree in engineering, business or economics. Previous engineering/business experience will be an advantage. The successful candidate will need a strong command of written and oral English; the ability to think clearly; to work without direct supervision; to be a team player with an outgoing and confident personality; and must possess strong IT skills.

The successful candidate, working with a Senior Trade & Investment Manager, will provide support to British companies already doing, or considering doing business in the Philippines; prepare tailored market reports on assigned industry sectors; seek business opportunities for British companies; assist in the preparation of visit programmes for business visitors as well as companies participating in Trade Missions, Exhibitions and Seminars and undertake some routine clerical duties.

The candidate will also be expected to assist and support UK Trade & Investment, British Embassy and British Chamber of Commerce events and receptions, and be able to undertake some national and international travel.

This is a full time position with a starting salary of PHP22,350, with annual bonuses and medical package.

How to apply
To apply please submit, in an A4 sized envelope, a copy of your CV (maximum 2 pages), 1 passport size photograph and a hand-written letter explaining your suitability for this position to:

HR Manager (T & I)
British Embassy
17/F LV Locsin Building
6752 Ayala Avenue
Makati City 1226
Metro Manila
Philippines

Please note that all applications passed/posted to anyone other than the HR Manager will not be taken into consideration.

Deadline & Start Date
Deadline for submission of application is **8 September 2006**. We hope that the successful candidate will start work in early October 2006.

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Interviews are strictly by appointment only

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- Female, Not More Than 30 Years Old
- Graduate Of Any 4-Year Business Course
- Computer Literate
- With At Least 2 Years Experience in Similar Field
- Preferably Chinese-Speaking

Interested applicants may apply personally at:
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Competitive compensation, incentives and benefits package
A dynamic and fun working environment
Comprehensive training program

Outbound Sales Representative International.
Apply on: August 29, Tuesday

Qualifications
- Graduate of any 4 year course or 2 year Associate degree; undergraduates accepted as long as 2 years of college have been completed
- Must have extensive sales background (minimum of 1 year)
- Open to having sales goals
- Possesses excellent verbal command of the English language
- Computer literate and proficient in keyboarding
- Highly motivated and extremely flexible
- Has high tolerance for stress
- Willing to work on shifting schedules and willing to be assigned at the Fort or Garnet (Ortigas)
- Customer oriented, enthusiastic and prompt
- Has initiative to learn with keen attention to details

Outbound Sales Representative International.
Apply on: August 30, Wednesday

Qualifications
- Minimum of 2 years experience in Computer Help Desk support and B2B document trading. EDI and XML experience preferred.
- Good to above average verbal and written command of the English language
- Strong analytical skills; motivated and extremely flexible with high tolerance for stress
- Customer oriented, enthusiastic and prompt

Outbound Sales Representative International.
Apply on: August 31, Thursday

Qualifications
- Graduate of any 4 year course or 2 year Associate degree; undergraduates accepted as long as 2 years of college have been completed
- Possesses good verbal command of the English language
- Computer literate and proficient in keyboarding
- Highly motivated and extremely flexible
- Has high tolerance for stress
- Willing to work on shifting schedules and willing to be assigned at the Fort or Garnet (Ortigas)
- Customer oriented, enthusiastic and prompt
- Has initiative to learn with keen attention to details.

VENTUS
Integrity. Innovation. Imagination.

www.epldtventus.com

A multinational company in the telecommunications industry is in urgent need of the following:

MOBILE APPLICATION DEVELOPERS
- Strong programming skills in Perl, PHP, and/or Java
- Proficiency in managing relational databases and in SQL
- 1-2 years experience with application design and development
- Works well under pressure and able to meet tight deadlines
- Hands-on experience with Linux systems
- Willing to render long hours when necessary
- Team player

GRAPHIC ARTIST
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Fine Arts, Multimedia Arts or any related degree
- Proficient in the following graphic software - Abobe - Photoshop 7+; Image Ready 7+, Illustrator 8+, Macromedia Flash MX
- Knowledge in Pixel Art Design and Animation - Character design, User interface design, Icon design, SMS Logo and picture design
- Must have basic knowledge in formation architecture (design principles)
- Highly creative (can think out of the box)
- Project management exposure, Intermediate knowledge in Actionscript programming (Macromedia Dreamweaver MX); Knowledge in XML, HTML, WML, web design and development (HRML, CSS) an advantage but not a must
- Must be a team player
- Genuine interest in work involving generation of mobile content and graphics such as MMSWallpapers, Screensavers, Themes, Operator logos and Picture Messages
- ***NOTE: Interested Graphic Artist applicants must send samples of their work with their resumé***

CUSTOMER CARE TEAM LEADER
- Graduate of any Bachelor's Degree
- 2+ years experience in Customer Care in at least a supervisory/managerial capacity
- People oriented leadership
- Computer and mobile phone savvy
- Excellent customer service skills and strong drive to provide customer service and assistance
- Good interpersonal relation skills
- Must possess good English and Filipino communication skills
- Good analytical skills
- Willingness to work in a fast-paced environment is a must

CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVE
- Graduate of any Bachelor's Degree
- Good customer service skills and strong drive to provide customer service and assistance
- With actual customer service experience
- Computer and mobile phone savvy
- Good interpersonal relation skills
- Must possess good English and Filipino communication skills
- Willingness to work in a fast-paced environment is a must

TECHNICAL WRITER
- Bachelor's degree in IT or similar field.
- At least 1 year work experience in an IT company
- Able to work collaboratively within a cross-functional team environment to create and maintain technical documentation
- Ability to work independently and to manage concurrent projects with tight deadlines
- Excellent time-management, planning and writing skills
- Interested in debugging code and has solid understanding of the software development process
- Knowledge of MS Word, Powerpoint, Excel and Lotus Notes
- Web publication experience is an advantage
- Familiarity with programming languages such as Perl, Php, Python and Java is an advantage

ASST. MARKETING MANAGER
- At least 2 years relevant experience in a brand/product management, marketing & sales (FMCG an advantage); prior client handling experience a must
- Exposure to P&L responsibility a definite advantage
- Experience in the following an advantage - Telco environment, lifestyle products
- Must be willing to do field work and passionate to acquire new businesses for the firm
- Must be a strategic and analytical thinker
- Should be comfortable working with numbers and analyzing numeric data
- With good presentation and negotiation skills
- Proactive, has initiative and flexible to the demands of the job.
- Fast learner, flexible, enthusiastic and passionate. A Team player.

Interested applicants please send your comprehensive resumé with photo to Jobs@IGateway.ph; indicate on subject line: PDI - position applied for - full name.

The British Embassy Manila is currently seeking to fill the following vacancy

ASSISTANT TRADE & INVESTMENT MANAGER

Applicants should be university graduates with a degree in engineering, business or economics. Previous engineering/business experience will be an advantage. The successful candidate will need a strong command of written and oral English; the ability to think clearly; to work without direct supervision; to be a team player with an outgoing and confident personality; and must possess strong IT skills.

The successful candidate, working with a Senior Trade & Investment Manager, will provide support to British companies already doing, or considering doing business in the Philippines; prepare tailored market reports on assigned industry sectors; seek business opportunities for British companies; assist in the preparation of visit programmes for business visitors as well as companies participating in Trade Missions, Exhibitions and Seminars and undertake some routine clerical duties.

The candidate will also be expected to assist and support UK Trade & Investment, British Embassy and British Chamber of Commerce events and receptions, and be able to undertake some national and international travel.

This is a full time position with a starting salary of PHP22,350, with annual bonuses and medical package.

How to apply
To apply please submit, in an A4 sized envelope, a copy of your CV (maximum 2 pages), 1 passport size photograph and a hand-written letter explaining your suitability for this position to:

HR Manager (T & I)
British Embassy
17/F LV Locsin Building
6752 Ayala Avenue
Makati City 1226
Metro Manila
Philippines

Please note that all applications passed/posted to anyone other than the HR Manager will not be taken into consideration.

Deadline & Start Date
Deadline for submission of application is **8 September 2006**. We hope that the successful candidate will start work in early October 2006.

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R u ready for higher ground?
Integrated Marketing Communications

Secretary/Assistant*
Designers*
Account Managers
Senior Account Managers*

*minimum 3 years relevant working experience
college graduate from top universities
with passion for excellence

Send your resume with recent 2x2 photo to:
W1203-B Philippine Stock Exchange Center,
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

Interviews are strictly by appointment only

An apparel company is in need of a

PAYROLL OFFICER

- Female, Not More Than 30 Years Old
- Graduate Of Any 4-Year Business Course
- Computer Literate
- With At Least 2 Years Experience in Similar Field
- Preferably Chinese-Speaking

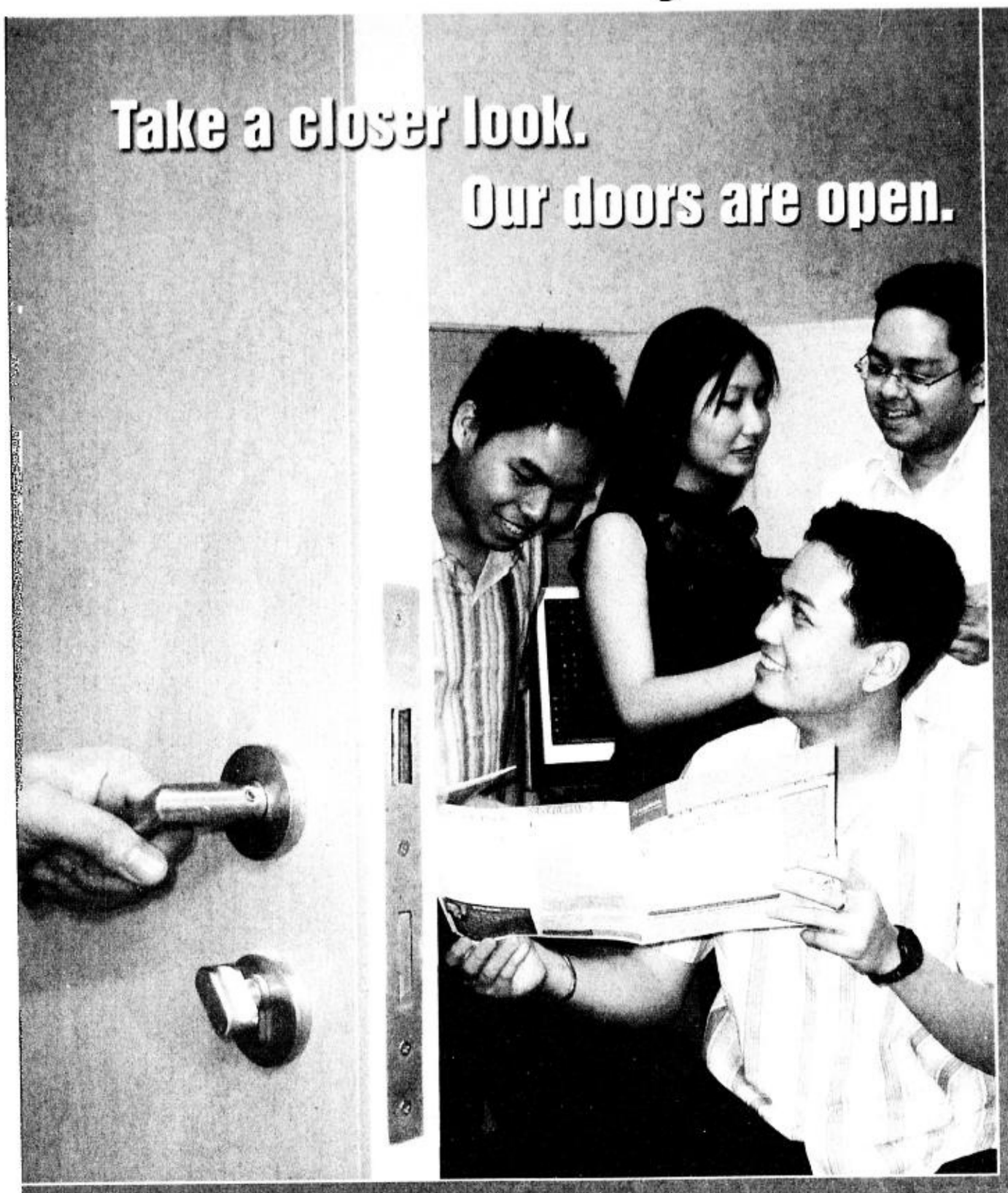
Interested applicants may apply personally at:
1072 Carmen Planas St.
(formerly Folgueras St.) Tondo, Manila
Tel No. 2453306 • jack_son512@yahoo.com

EXCITING PRODUCTION TEAM NOW HIRING

WEBSITE MANAGER
Part-time. Knowledge of web design is a must.

Please send resume to den.reyes@yahoo.com.ph or FAX 886-6812

WANTED
Leather Dept. Supervisor for Export Company
Male/Female 25-35 yrs. old
With 2 yrs. exp., technical knowledge and skills in leather goods. Must be efficient and effective in planning and systems implementation.
Email hrd tal@yahoo.com.ph



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Each interaction is a chance to sharpen skills and be at par with the world's best. That's exposure behind the doors of Convergys.

We are looking for individuals with passion for learning and drive for success.

INBOUND CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES
(Alabang, Commonwealth, or Makati)

OUTBOUND CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES
(Makati)

TECHNICAL CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES
(Commonwealth, Makati, or Ortigas)

CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVE - COLLECTIONS
(Ortigas)

FINANCIAL SERVICE AND SALES ASSOCIATE
(Ortigas)

INBOUND/ OUTBOUND CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVE – MULTI-LINGUAL
(Ortigas - email your resume to alex.raymundo@convergys.com)
Daytime openings for Mandarin/ Cantonese/ Fookien speaking agents, knowledgeable in computers, Internet and proficient in MS Excel.

TEAM LEADER - INBOUND CUSTOMER CARE SERVICE
(Commonwealth)

OPERATIONS MANAGER - INBOUND CUSTOMER CARE SERVICE
(Commonwealth)

Visit any of our sites from Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm, and experience faster processing. You may also email your resume to philippinesrecruitment@convergys.com.

Free food will be served to walk-in applicants at our Makati site from August 28 to September 1, 2006 and get a chance to win Electronic Ayala Mall gift certificates during job offer!

Apply at our Ortigas site from August 30 to September 1, 2006 for a chance to win an MP3 Player and other exciting gift items!

Apply at our U-Belt site from August 28 to September 1, 2006 for a chance to win gift certificates during job offer!

Free food will be served to walk-in applicants at our Commonwealth site on August 30, 2006.

We will be accepting walk-in applicants from 9am to 3pm at our Alabang site on Saturday, September 2, 2006.

Commonwealth Office
2/F Diliman Commercial Center, #46 Don Mariano Marcos Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
(02)756-7088

Makati Office
Convergys One, 6796 Ayala Ave., cor Salcedo St. Legaspi Village, Makati City
(02)756-7188

Ortigas Office
24th Floor, Robinsons Equitable Tower, #4 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center, Pasig City
(02)857-7678

Alabang Office
Block 44, Northgate Cyberzone, Muntinlupa City
(02)758-1688

U-Belt Office
Level 1, St. Thomas Square 1150 España Boulevard cor. Padre Campa St. Sampaloc, Manila
(02)735-2006

Cebu Office
R. Arcenas St., Arcenas Estate Banawa Hills, Cebu City
Tel # 032 416 5810

For U-Belt applicants, we accept walk-ins Mondays to Sundays, 10am to 7pm.

We offer attractive compensation and benefits packages. Additional rewards and incentives are given to top performing agents. Applicants with resume, NBI Clearance, TIN and SSS number will be prioritized.

For information on how to apply, text CVG HELP to 2308 Globe/Touch Mobile or to 2951 Smart/AMP/Talk & Text.

CONVERGYS
Outthinking Outdoing

Executive Secretary
Administrative Tribunal

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is looking for a suitably qualified lawyer with 20-25 years of experience (litigation experience is desirable) to perform the duties of Executive Secretary for ADB's Administrative Tribunal at its office at ADB's headquarters in Manila, Philippines.

The Administrative Tribunal is an independent body that considers and passes judgment on any cases of alleged nonobservance of the contract of employment between a staff member and the ADB.

The Executive Secretary is the channel of communication between staff and the Tribunal and is responsible for transmitting all documents and making all notifications required in connection with proceedings before the Tribunal and recording all actions taken in relation thereto. The Executive Secretary's position is part-time on an intermittent basis, and the hours will depend on the workload. Compensation is paid on an hourly basis commensurate with the experience and education of the person selected. The selected candidate will be offered an initial three-year contract.

Applicants must be nationals of one of ADB's member countries. Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered. ADB will not accept telephone or e-mail inquiries.

Apply electronically to <OSEC@adb.org> quoting Ref. No EXT-ADBT06-001-ADBT by 29 September 2006.

Women are actively encouraged to apply.

Asian Development Bank ADB

www.adb.org

FT
FINANCIAL TIMES

The ***Financial Times***, one of the world's top sources of business news and information, requires additional staff for its finance IT support team. The ideal candidates should meet the attributes and formal skills enumerated below and must be able to start as soon as possible. Attractive remuneration package awaits those who will be hired.

FINANCE IT SYSTEM SUPPORT STAFF

- Graduate of Computer Science, Computer Programming or any IT-related course
- Good general IT awareness with at least one year experience in providing remote IT support
- Knowledge of automated accounting processes
- Experience in using SUN and similar accounting applications
- Proficient in MS Word, Excel, Visual Basic and Lotus Notes
- Able to work on variable shift schedule including holidays and weekends as required
- Customer service focused and able to work independently and as part of a team
- Must possess good oral and written communication skills and capable of logical problem solving
- Previous experience working for a multinational company a distinct advantage

Interested applicants should post their detailed resume, cover letter and most recent photograph to **The HR and Administration Manager** at the address below not later than September 1, 2006:

Financial Times Philippines
42nd Floor, Philamlife Tower,
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Visit our website www.ft.com

THE DOCUMENT COMPANY
FUJI XEROX

BUSINESS CONSULTANT

THE JOB: Business consultant is responsible for selling document management solutions and services to corporations utilizing enterprise and solution selling.

The job includes identifying and qualifying prospects, understanding customer requirements, conducting studies, architecting and proposing possible solutions to solve customer's business problems with respect to work, business and document processes.

QUALIFICATIONS: College Graduate/ Post-graduate/Professional certification/s is a plus, with five (5) years experience in consultancy work with Information Technology (IT) industry. Ability to articulate verbally and comprehensively, good understanding of business process, knowledgeable with software and other related applications, capable of opportunity qualification, and engaging with senior management in various organizations/industries, deep understanding and use of financial tools and metrics (ROI analyses). Self- motivated, must have Project Management experience, document management experience is a plus with good inter-personal, oral and written communication skills, as well as, excellent presentation and negotiation skills. Result-oriented, customer-focused, and with above average IQ. Proven track record is a plus.

PRODUCT MANAGER

THE JOB: To Provide leadership in managing a product or group of products to ensure maximum market penetration and profitability. Develop and implement business to business marketing strategy and tactics based on Market Intelligence. Conduct, gather and interpret market, customer and competitor research to identify, explore and capitalize on industry and competitive trends, Can analyze proposed products and services to calculate ideal market pricing and maximize profits. Develop company's one-year, three-year and five-year business plan. Responsible for all areas of market development, public relations, advertising and promotions

QUALIFICATIONS: College Graduate with Bachelor of Science degree in Management / Marketing, at least four (4) years experience in Sales & Marketing with minimum two (2) years experience in product or brand management / marketing. Knowledge of industry-based marketing including distribution methods and technologies is preferred, has analytical and decision making capabilities and is highly innovative, focused driven.

PRODUCTION SYSTEMS BUSINESS (PSB) COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

THE JOB: Creates, implements and oversees communications programs that effectively describe and promote the organization and it's products including graphics, brochures, company or product fact sheets, logos or other promotional products; Manage public relations, events, direct marketing, advertising, promotional activities, lead generation and customer loyalty programs that are consistent with local and regional communications strategies.

QUALIFICATIONS: College Graduate with Marketing and/or Business Degree with six (6) years experience as Communications Manager. Must have exposure to related areas such as journalism, advertising, public relations and/or event management; Customer-focused, innovative approach, self-starter, team player, has drive maturity and perseverance.

JAPANESE ACCOUNT MANAGER

THE JOB: Solutions Selling to Japanese Key Accounts and develop C level relationship; Job includes Account Management, clearance of revenue target and perform other functions relevant to selling activities; Knowledgeable of Ringi Systems, selling, research, job analysis, verbal fluency and computer literacy

QUALIFICATIONS: Graduate of any four (4) year course, at least one (1) year experience as Japanese Account Manager;Must be a Filipino /Japanese (FilJap) Possesses above average intelligence with good interpersonal and communication skills, Has the ability to satisfy the needs of internal and external customer, mature outlook, responsible and self-motivated, can work with minimum supervision.

ACCOUNT MANAGERS

THE JOB: Ensure achievement of targeted Sales, Revenue and profit from diverse array of products/services offering by effective prospecting and account management within a targeted group of accounts within one or more industry segments, where Fuji Xerox products/service offerings are positioned uniquely for competitive advantage; Lead the creation of proposal recommendation, negotiation and implementation of proposed solutions; Ensure promotion/ achievement of brand loyalty and generate sound prospects for repeat business.

QUALIFICATIONS: At least 25 years old, preferably a Bachelor of Science degree holder of Management, Marketing, Computer Science, Engineering or any related course. Self-motivated, experience in IT application, and consulting skills a plus, with good inter-personal, oral and written communication skills, as well as, excellent presentation & negotiation skills. Results-oriented, customer-focused, at least three (3) years working experience in sales and marketing in IT or Telecommunications or Graphic Arts industry, and with above average IQ.

IT INFRASTRACTURE / BUSINESS APPLICATION ADMINISTRATOR

THE JOB: Responsible for systems administration, systems development and design, network administration, interface for IT shared services, hardware troubleshooting and management of IT assets and IT related matters

QUALIFICATIONS: Graduate of any computer / IT Related Course or it's equivalent, at least three (3) years experience in systems development analysis and MS Visual Studio 6, Must have knowledge in .Net, Oracle, PL/SQL and Crystal Report and background on Cisco VOIP, Routers, VPN, RAS, Unix, Citrix, Sun Machines, Windows and XP administrations, possesses above average intelligence with good interpersonal and communication skills, Has the ability to satisfy the needs of internal and external customer, Responsible and Self-motivated, can work with minimum supervision.

FUJI XEROX PHILS., INC.
Human Resource Division
19th Floor, 6788 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 878-5200 loc. 137. Please look for Ms. Juvy J. Vidal
or E-mail: juvy.vidal@phl.fujixerox.com

Urgently Needed !!!
CREDIT CARDS
TELESALES AGENTS
For telephone interview please contact Mark Acabado to the following nos.
413-9698 / 722-8140 (Cell No. 0927-3946456)

URGENTLY NEEDED
CORPORATE LAWYER
- w/ experience in corporate litigations; excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Must also be a Notary Public

Interested applicants may email resumé to
ibusiness06@yahoo.com

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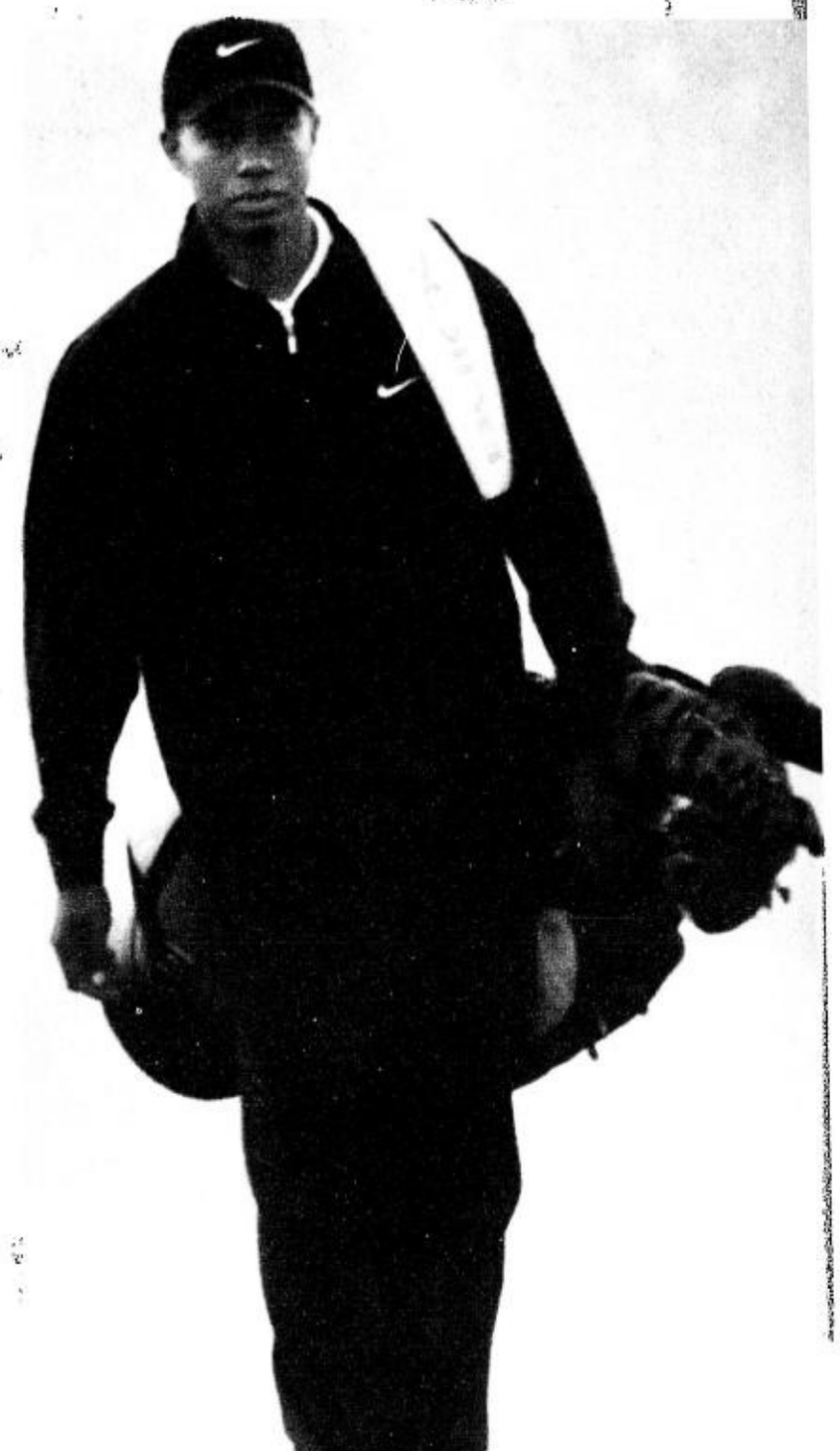
Wake-up call.

Take your career to the next level.



Find out in 40 minutes if you pre-qualify as a customer care agent for Accenture Customer Contact Services in the Philippines.

Accenture knows the importance of creating the right environment for success. You can develop your skills here faster than almost anywhere else because we're one of the world's leading management consulting, technology services and outsourcing companies. We're now opening a new Customer Contact Services Center in the Philippines and we want talented people who are looking for a challenge. Join our global team and you'll be delivering the innovation that helps our clients become high-performance businesses.

Customer Care Agents

We are looking for bright, talented and mature individuals with excellent communications skills. If you are a graduate of any four-year course and keen on building a long-term career, then start with us.

Once hired as a customer care agent, you will go through a comprehensive training program designed to prepare you to work at the highest level of efficiency. And through our Call Center University of Excellence, you gain the advantage of a continuous learning program that develops deep specialized skills and facilitates personal and leadership growth.

You will be exposed to the best-in-class call center management technology and processes that leads to better coaching and performance enhancement opportunities. On top of this, you will receive a competitive total rewards package, including pay-for-performance incentives.

Most of all, at Accenture, we want you to have an exceptional career experience. We offer you many avenues for growth and the opportunity to manage your own career. Being a large company, we are equipped to provide you with varied career options within the Accenture career framework to best utilize your skills.

Join our customer contact services team. Find out in 40 minutes if you pre-qualify as a customer care agent by visiting careers.accenture.com/philippines/accs. Apply now!

Visit careers.accenture.com/philippines/accs

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JOB Market

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2006
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For jobseekers, log on to:
www.jobmarketonline.com

JOB Market is exclusively for job advertisements.
This special section comes FREE with your copy of the INQUIRER published every Sunday and distributed in key cities

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for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

Text us your feedback: Inquirer jm name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

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Big City Jobs Right at Your Hometown

TeleTech now hiring in Lipa, Bacolod & Dumaguete

We're hiring!
Customer Service & Technical Support Representatives

- Preferably graduate of any four-year course
- With excellent communication skills in English
- Must have strong comprehension and listening skills

Leadership Opportunities

- Site Leaders
- Language/Product Trainers/Leads
- Workforce Planning Specialists/Leads
- Quality Assurance Specialists/Leads
- Site Administrative Assistants/Leads
- Human Resources Managers
- Human Resources Assistants/Lead
- Recruitment Specialists/Managers
- Information Technology Specialists/Leads
- Facilities Leads
- Payroll Specialists/Leads
- Other Non-CSR positions available

We strongly encourage walk-in applicants. Please visit our Customer Management Centers at the following locations:

LIPA CITY
Level 1 Expansion Building,
Robinsons Place Lipa
Lipa City, Batangas

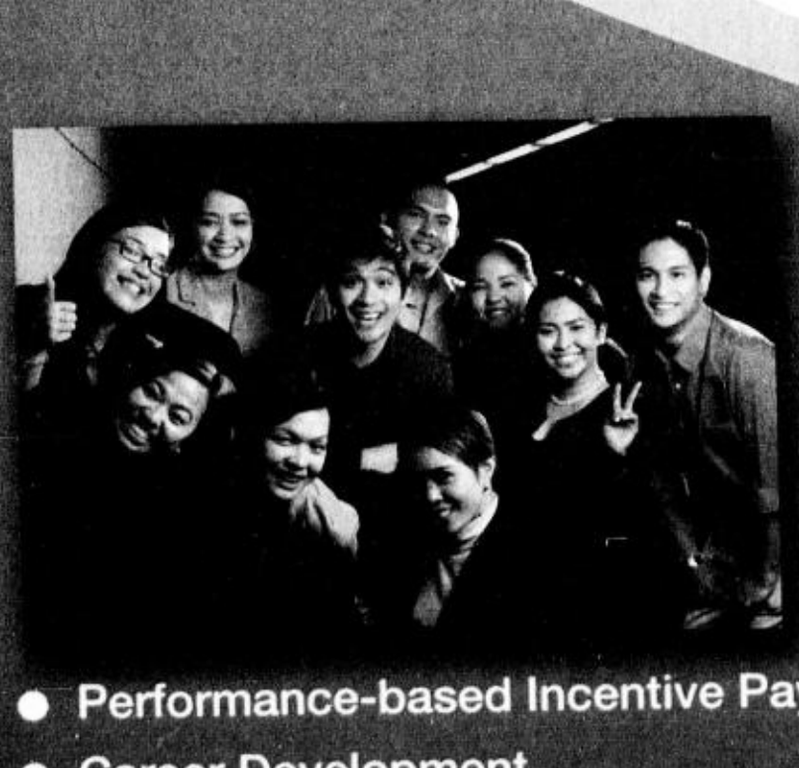
BACOLOD CITY
Level 1, Robinsons Metro Bacolod,
Singcang, Bacolod City

DUMAGUETE CITY
UMEE Building, Sta Catalina St,
Dumaguete City

Application Steps

1. Take the TeleTech Language Assessment.
   Call 1-800-10-TELETECH (8353832)
   Toll-free for PLDT and SMART or 02-552-9799
   (NDD charges will apply).
2. Write down your TeleTech Language Assessment identification number and
3. Apply online at

www.HirePoint.com



- Performance-based Incentive Pay
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- Balanced Lifestyle
- Company Stability

TeleTech®

TeleTech is the leading provider of Customer Management and Business Process Outsourcing solutions worldwide. Headquartered in Denver, Colorado with a global network in 16 countries, TeleTech supports 40,000 employees in 80 Customer Management Centers (CMCs) located in North America, Europe, Asia-Pacific and Latin America. TeleTech was established in the Philippines in 2001. Today, we are supporting the world's largest companies in 6 state-of-the-art CMC's

Education Development Center, Inc.

Education Quality and Access for Learning and Livelihood Skills (EQuALLS) Program

Education Development Center, a US-based, international nongovernmental organization, is seeking experienced professionals to staff the technical program team for the USAID-funded EQuALLS project in the Philippines. EQuALLS will work with a broad range of stakeholder organizations to strengthen formal and non-formal basic education for children and youth in Mindanao. For all positions, experience in international development projects is desired. Experience working in Mindanao in conflict or post-conflict situations will be an advantage, and ability to travel between Mindanao and Manila required.

Director of Technical Programs: To ensure quality, relevance and sustainability of EQuALLS program activities by providing technical leadership to staff and implementing partners. Based in Manila or Mindanao. Master's degree in education, community development, public administration or related field required; PhD preferred. Additional requirements: minimum of ten years of progressively increasing technical leadership responsibilities in basic education, nonformal education, youth programming or related areas; five years of supervisory work with multi-disciplinary technical team; experience supervising participatory monitoring and evaluation systems and conducting research studies; excellent leadership and interpersonal skills; excellent English language communication skills.

Specialist, Community Support for Education: To provide technical leadership and resources in the planning, coordination and evaluation of programs designed to increase community involvement in education. Based in Mindanao. Master's degree (or beyond) in education, social services or related field required. Additional requirements: minimum of five years experience in planning and managing participatory community development projects, with progressively increasing levels of technical responsibility; ability to work independently and with a team; excellent leadership and communication skills (in English and Filipino).

Specialist, Formal Education: To provide technical leadership and resources in the planning, coordination and evaluation of primary and secondary education programs implemented by project partners. Based in Mindanao. Master's degree in education, social sciences, or related field required. Additional requirements: minimum of five years experience in planning and implementing professional development and capacity building for educators and managing education interventions, with progressively increasing levels of technical responsibility; ability to work independently and with a team; experience in participatory program planning, implementation and evaluation; excellent leadership and communication skills (in English and Filipino).

Specialist, Out –of –School Children and Youth (OSCY)/Nonformal Education: To provide technical leadership and resources in the planning, coordination, and evaluation of OSCY programs implemented by project partners. Based in Mindanao. Master's degree in education, social services, or related field required, with training in nonformal education desired. Additional requirements: minimum of five years experience in planning and managing nonformal education and/or livelihood skills development programs, with progressively increasing levels of technical responsibility; ability to work independently and with a team; experience in participatory program planning, implementation and evaluation; excellent leadership and communication skills (in English and Filipino).

Area Coordinator: To represent EQuALLS in targeted geographic regions and coordinate the collaborative program activities of EQuALLS implementing partners. Based in Mindanao. Four-year degree (or beyond) in education, social sciences, or related field required. Additional requirements: minimum of five years working in comprehensive area development projects; three years experience in coordination activities with governmental and nongovernmental agencies; ability to work independently and with a team; experience in participatory program planning, implementation and evaluation; excellent collaborative coordination and communication skills (in English and Filipino).

Submission of Applications
Qualified candidates should email their applications complete with CV and reference contact details to mavila@edc.org and gpayan@edc.org or mail to Box No. 164 c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Ground Floor The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City no later than September 10, 2006. EDC is an equal opportunity employer. Salary and benefits will be commensurate with experience.

SANDVIK

Sandvik Mining and Construction is a business area within the Sandvik Group and a leading global supplier of machinery, cemented-carbide tools, service and technical solutions for the excavation of rock and minerals in the mining and construction industries. Annual sales amount to about USD3.5B, with approximately 10,600 employees. International brands are Sandvik, Tamrock, Toro, EJC, Voest-Alpine, Eimco, Driltech, Rammer, Mission, Roxon etc.

We are seeking for people who are passionate about their work and possess the drive to excel to join us as:

SERVICE ENGINEER/SERVICE TECHNICIAN/MAINTENANCE PLANNER

The business is expected to experience rapid growth in underground and surface equipment including drilling rigs and associated tools, loaders and trucks. Key to developing the business will be a strong focus on the service, parts and contracts business, and associated service business.

This position is strongly customer focused, requiring an in-depth understanding of the customer's business. Success will depend on the ability to develop a motivated team, to meet customers' expectations.

The person should possess a tertiary education in Engineering or Business with at least 2 years' of operational and/or maintenance experience in the mining or related industry. Strong management and interpersonal skills are critical factors to the success of this job. Further training will be provided.

APPLICANTS MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Electronic/Electro-Mechanical Engineer or Technical Graduate from recognized institute (with diploma).
2. Knowledge of electronic motors or servo drives and hydraulic principle.
3. Minimum of two (2) years relevant work experience preferably on mobile machinery.
4. Basic understanding of electro-mechanical principle.
5. Medically fit to work on surface and underground mine.
6. Computer literate.
7. Fluent in English, both oral and written.
8. For possible relocation outside Metro Manila or other Countries in the Asia Pacific.

Interested applicants may send in applications with full resume, photograph, current/expected salaries, and contact number to:

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
Sandvik Tamrock (Philippines) Inc.
Km 20, East Service Road
South Superhighway 1770, Muntinlupa City

A well-established agency operating nationwide needs:

TYPIST/STENOGRAPHER

- 23 YEARS OLD AND ABOVE
- WITH EXPERIENCE, GRADUATE OF A FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE COURSE
- WITH TYPING SPEED OF 45 WPM AND STENO AT 60 WPM

Qualified applicants may apply in writing or in person with recent photo to:

CATALINA SECURITY AGENCY
626 G. ARANETA AVE., QUEZON CITY
or send resumé at:
pourbanes@yahoo.com.ph

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MARKETING OFFICERS
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Ortigas-based company needs Marketing Execs. to sell big event sponsorships. Only those w/ experience in selling sponsorships or Account Managers and Media Officers from Ad Agencies or from Media outfits or proven sales whiz will be considered. FULL OR PART-TIME. Salary, allow., plus commission. Email resumé w/ photo asap to: **totalpromomktg@yahoo.com.**

A **BANK** IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING FOR ASSIGNMENT IN THE *CALABARZON AREA*

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

- With at least 5 years accounting experience in a supervisory level of a banking institution
- Must have extensive knowledge and understanding of accounting standards, principles and procedures
- Good analytical ability
- Good communication skills, both oral and written
- Computer literate
- Proven leadership skills and abilities

BRANCH MANAGERS *(for Cavite Branches)*

- Must have extensive banking experience
- Must have a good marketing skills
- Must be energetic and with good analytical ability

SYSTEMS ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

- Graduate of BS Computer Science
- Technical Skills Experience: WINDOWS NT/2000 Server; WINDOWS 98/ME/XP; MS OFFICE; MS Access; SQL Server; Visual Basic; Networking (WAN/LAN) knowledge
- With at least 2 years programming experience
- Has a strong background in IT and MIS Operations
- Programming experience in an IT environment of banks is an advantage
- Willing to cooperate with others and function as an effective team player and to work beyond regular working hours

TELLER *(for manpower pool)*

- Graduate of business course
- Must possess good interpersonal skills

Send your resume at e-mail address: **mchd_ph@yahoo.com**

sojitz

Sojitz Philippines Corporation

SOJITZ, one of Japan's biggest trading companies is looking for dedicated and qualified individuals to join its workforce by applying for the position described below. Competitive compensation and excellent benefits await qualified and accepted applicants. Graduates from UP and Ateneo, and other reputable universities, are encouraged to apply.

Business Staff for General Commodities (Food) Section

Qualifications:

- 21 to 30 years old
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- Hardworking, self-motivated, and responsible
- Computer literate (MS Word, MS Excel, Powerpoint)
- Preferably with International Commodity Trading experience

Please apply online, or send your application with photo and University Score Report to:

Administration Department
Sojitz Philippines Corporation
24th F, Pacific Star Building, Makati Ave.,
Cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
Website: **http://www.ph.sojitz.com**
Email: **versoza.karen@sea.sojitz.com**

John Robert Powers

International Since 1923

Our business is growing fast. We are seeking additional goal driven and dynamic people who are motivated by the challenge and opportunity to earn according to their efforts and results.

SALES AND ENROLLMENT COUNSELOR

Successful candidates should be sales enthusiasts with upscale image who are motivated by accomplishment and the opportunity to earn substantial compensation.

- ☐ Female
- ☐ At least 5 years of successful person-to-person Sales experience or as Front Line Customer Sales Contact.
- ☐ Telephone and Personal Interview Skills are essential. Additional training will be provided.
- ☐ College Graduate, Excellent English Communication Skills, Computer Literate.
- ☐ Result-Oriented with minimum supervision. Self-Motivation and Innovation is a must.
- ☐ Willing to work early evenings and Saturdays.

MARKETING REPRESENTATIVES

Successful candidates must have a contemporary upscale image with high-energy and good public relations skills.

- ☐ Male or Female
- ☐ At least 1 year sales experience
- ☐ Flexibility required. Position entails both in office telephone work and on site "stand up" promotional activity in schools and malls.
- ☐ College Graduate. Excellent English Communication Skills, Computer Literate
- ☐ Seeks high compensation based primarily on results
- ☐ Responsible and systematic team player
- ☐ Willing to work long hours, Saturdays and occasionally on Sundays
- ☐ Advancement opportunities. We prefer to promote from within the company

Qualified applicants should email or mail their resume with a 2x2 photo no later than September 08, 2006. Please indicate the position you are applying for at the top of your resume. Send to:

THE INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR
JRP AD CENTER, INC.
4th Flr. Casmer Bldg. 195 Salcedo St. Legaspi Village
Makati City
manila@johnroberipowers.com

Our company is engaged in the distribution and marketing of pharmaceutical products and leading consumer products. We are inviting competent and dynamic individuals to join our marketing team as:

BRAND SPECIALIST

Qualifications:

1. College graduate, preferably marketing major
2. Must have professional sales and marketing experiences
3. With skills in marketing of consumer products for Supermarkets and Department Stores
4. Excellent oral and written communication skills
5. Demonstrates strong interpersonal and analytical skills
6. Exhibits high level of creativity and enthusiasm
7. Must be a team player
8. Willing to do field work for sales and promotional activities monitoring
9. Highly organized, proactive and results-oriented
10. Capable of writing advanced marketing plans and strategies for product development and innovation
11. With pleasing personality
12. Computer literate
13. Impeccable integrity

Send resumé and latest 1x1 photo to:
P.O. Box 2338 Manila

IEFA

(International English Friends Academy)

ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR

- ▸ FEMALE, 20-35 years old, College Graduate
- ▸ Excellent communication skills & computer literate
- ▸ Teaching or Call center Experience

ADMINISTRATION STAFF

- ▸ More than 2 years experience office work
- ▸ sincerity, diligent women only
- ▸ Computer literate

For inquiries call 892-3394 or send your resumé to
yuddia@gmail.com

Apply personally at **1101 Pearlbank Center**
146 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A leading distributor of Panasonic Office Automations urgently needs highly competent people for the following positions:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Graduate of any 4 year Business course. With excellent and effective interpersonal, oral and written communication, and negotiation skills. Strong consultative selling skills is a plus. Self-driven, result-oriented and with above average IQ.

SERVICE TECHNICIAN & ENGINEER

Male, preferably graduate of BSECE or Computer Engineering with good academic records. With strong sense of responsibility, results oriented and highly quality/customer sensitive.

Due to its urgency, interested applicants are requested to apply personally. Bring resumé with recent photo and transcript of records to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER
No. 51 Gen. Rosendo Simon St., Caloocan City
Email Add: pic-sales@pacific.net.ph

Headstrong is a global consultancy delivering expertise across business processes, strategic consulting and technology through its global delivery and sourcing model. Headstrong helps its clients realize value from their business and technology initiatives while leveraging a steadfast heritage (as James Martin + Co) of strong methodologies and global program management. Providing solutions to the Financial Services, Manufacturing, Public Sector, and Services sectors, Headstrong uses its business knowledge and relationship management skills to fulfill its high standards for delivery. With Global Delivery Centers (GDC) in two of the leading outsourcing destinations -- India and the Philippines - and a global resource pool of qualified advisors, Headstrong can deliver a full range of integration services, including strategic assessment, design and implementation, and application development and maintenance both onshore and offshore. With a 25-year track record of proven results, Headstrong's client base includes many of the world's most respected companies. Headstrong is headquartered near Washington DC, with a global presence across North America, Europe and Asia-Pacific.

headstrong
A GLOBAL CONSULTANCY

http://www.headstrong.com

We are currently looking for qualified candidates for the following positions:

Project Managers
- With at least 5 years professional experience in Oracle Applications projects locally or overseas
- With at least one (1) Oracle Portal or Oracle HRMS project implementation experience performing the role of Project Manager
- Must have hands-on skills on Oracle configuration work and strong business analysis skills
- Preferably with some knowledge on Oracle Forms and Reports, and Java
- With working experience on projects with Oracle DB backend
- Must have excellent communication and interpersonal relations skills.
- Must be fluent in the English language
- Should have good leadership skills
- Must be willing to travel

Java/J2EE Developers
- Strong object oriented programming skills with experience with Java, JSPs, XML, OOD and UML
- Preferably with at least 2 years experience in actual application development, analysis, design, construction, and implementation
- Extensive Java programming experience in a client server environment
- Database Development experience (Oracle preferred, SQL Server a plus)
- Additional Programming experience in XML, XSL, SOAP
- Windows and UNIX development programing
- Solid programming techniques and unit testing required
- Experience with Web Application Server (WebLogic or JBOSS a plus)
- Experience with Ant and Eclipse is desired
- Must be a team player and able to lead a team as well
- Self-motivated, goal-oriented, fast learner and possesses excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

QA/Test Analysts
- Must have 3-5 years experience in software development or software application testing and/or computer programming experience.
- Three years experience installing and testing client server or web application software.
- Experienced in automated test tools, Mercury products preferred (QTP, Test Director)
- Some programming or scripting experience would be advantageous
- Some experience with White Box testing and Database Administration would be an asset
- Experienced with setup and configuration of Web Application Servers (Web Logic, JBOSS)
- Experienced in applications development under a full life project cycle an advantage.
- Self-motivated, goal-oriented, fast learner and possesses excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

C/C++ Developers
- Have gone through at least one full Software Development Lifecycle using RUP
- Extensive experience in the design, development, testing, and deployment of C and C++ applications
- Experience working & developing on multiple platforms (Windows, Linux, Solaris, etc.)
- Experience with scripting languages (Perl, BASH, Windows .bat, etc.) and script automation
- Able to communicate with client, able to teach and coach technical skills like code reviews
- Resourceful, independent and possesses excellent communication and interpersonal skills

Siebel Configurators
- At least 4 years of solid experience in Siebel 7.0/7.5 (preferably in eFinance)
- At least 5 years in IT
- High proficiency in the use of Siebel Tools is required
- Extensive Siebel scripting experience is a must
- Good knowledge of Actuate reporting
- Expert in Siebel integration using EAI, Siebel Workflow and EIM.
- Knowledgeable in Java, Weblogic and Unix
- Good communication skills (written and verbal)

Datawarehouse Consultants
- At least 2 years datawarehouse ETL work experience
- Required Skills: ETL Tools like BusinessObjects, Cognos, Informatica, DTS, DataStage.
- Knowledgeable in logical and physical data modeling (preferably of datamarts/datawarehouses) and RDBMS (preferably SQLServer)
- Very good communication skills
- Willing to travel

Business Analysts
- Must be able to convert existing business requirement into technical specifications following a set methodology
- Must have 3 - 5 years work experience in a non-life insurance business, consulting environment, banking/finance, or related industries
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills

Process Quality Assurance Consultants
- Strong background on quality management implementation
- Experience on ISO 9001:2000 standards and on CMMi standards
- Adequate background on IT delivery
- Involved on ISO or CMMi Appraisals,is preferred
- Knowledge on statistics is preferred
- Certified IQA - preferred
- Involved in a CMMi Level 5 implementation - preferred
- Possess Team Leadership skills
- Has a pleasant personality, can be very adaptable and has easy to deal with attitude
- Must have a good communication (oral/verbal) &/or presentation skills
- Fast learner, independent & reliable
- Has a high sense of responsibility

C# Developers
- Preferably with at least 3 years experience in development using C#
- Must be a team player and able to lead a team as well
- Self-motivated, goal-oriented, fast learner and possesses excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

Visual Basic Developers
- Required skills: VB6, DLL, COM, Active X
- Preferred skills: Oracle
- Must have at least 3 years work experience
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Must be a team player and able to lead a team as well
- Self-motivated, goal-oriented, and a fast learner
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

Trainers with Implementation Background
- Extensive experience in IMPLEMENTATION and/or training ERP
- Knowledge and experience with financial accounting and CRM products such as QuickBooks, ACCPAC, Great Plains, Goldmine, ACT and Salesforce.com is highly desirable
- Familiarity with XML, Javascript, HTML, Crystal and SQL is a plus
- Candidates must have Bachelor's Degree in any field
- Knowledgeable in CRM, database, web-based systems, desktop publishing and other technical areas
- Strong communication skills, fluency in English is required
- Demonstrate sharp, analytical, problem-solving, and decision making skills
- Open to flexible schedule and willing to travel

Interested candidates can send their comprehensive resumes to:

Resource Management Unit
15/F Export Bank Plaza
Sen. Gil Puyat &
Chino Roces Aves.
Makati City, Metro Manila

Or email to
recruitment@headstrong.com

HOTEL SOGO

The industry leader with 20 branches nationwide is offering attractive compensation packages for the following positions:

DIRECTOR FOR ENGINEERING
- Licensed Architect or Engineer;
- Not more than 50 years old;
- Minimum of 8 years experience in managing vertical construction projects, which includes Design, Estimating, Value Engineering and Construction;
- Computer literate and able to manage several projects simultaneously;
- Candidates currently receiving P50,000.00/month or below need not apply.

PROJECT-IN-CHARGE
- Civil Engineering or Architecture graduate;
- Adept in AutoCad applications;
- Minimum of 3 years supervisory experience in construction and project management;
- Background in construction of fast food restaurant is an advantage;
- Willing to work under pressure.

Interested applicants may send their resume & 2 x 2 ID picture to the HRMD Dept., Upper Ground Floor, Sogo Hotel, 629 EDSA, Cubao, Quezon City or E-mail at sogo_hrmd@yahoo.com

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CONFERENCE PRODUCER

"IQPC recognizes that our customers buy differences not similarities - we differentiate ourselves by providing our customers an unparalleled quality of product - our production department is at the heart of our competitive advantage and business success - the position not only offers fantastic monetary reward but also offers an unprecedented learning opportunity - producing for IQPC is like being on a fast tracked MBA "

Do you have :-
- The ability to assimilate complex information quickly
- Great verbal communication skills for extensive telephone research
- Strong written communication skills for developing online and direct mail sales copy
- The ability to sell an original idea to senior managers in regional MNCs
- Excellent time management skills
- A desire to work overseas and in a multi-cultural environment

Do you enjoy:-
- High pressure, fast moving environments
- Deadlines and targets
- Tracking current business issues and industry trends
- Taking responsibility for driving projects from start to finish
- Talking to people, negotiating deals and creating business partnerships

IQPC continues to expand rapidly across Asia and the Middle East and as such needs dynamic individuals to join our Finance, Oil and Business Management Conference Production Teams.

Conference Producers pride themselves on staying at the forefront of business trends and should be prepared to make an immediate and lasting contribution to the company. If you love a challenge, then this position will provide great learning opportunities, a high level of strategic, operational and budgetary responsibility from day one, as well as exposure to the business community and industry trends. Continual training is provided and career opportunities for talented individuals are immense within our global organization.

If you make the grade, contact us today on
recruit@iqpc.com.sg
All applications will be kept absolutely confidential.

J.F. RUBBER PHILS., INC.

A manufacturer of Quality Rubber Parts for automotive wiring harness and precision rubbers is currently in need of:

SALES & MARKETING ASSISTANT
- Male, Single/Married, 23~30 years old
- Engineering or Marketing Graduate
- Preferably with experience in sales & marketing function
- Knowledgeable in ISO/TS documentation
- Good Analytical & Communication Skills
- With driving skills & with professional driver's license
- Computer Literate

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER
- Female, Single, 23~29 years old
- Industrial Engineering Graduate
- Experienced in time & motion study
- Good Analytical & Communication Skills
- Computer Literate

PURCHASING CLERK
- Male, Single/Married, 23~30 years old
- Graduate of Business Course, preferably BSA
- Good Analytical & Communication Skills
- At least one year experience in Purchasing
- Computer literate (MS office & Spreadsheet)
- Preferably resident of Carmona or nearby town

Interested applicants may send their letter of application plus comprehensive resume with 2x2 recent photo.

E-mail Add: roland.talagtag@yahoo.com
almaamedina@yahoo.com
Website Add: www.jfrubber.ph
Fax No: (046) 430-2079
Mail Add: PTC-SEZ Carmona, Cavite

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A New Company specializing in Media and Advertising

VIDEO EDITION HEAD
- Preferably 5 yrs experience in related field
- Knowledgeable in professional video editing software
- Communication Arts, I.T. or Advertising graduate
- Male, not more than 30 yrs old

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
- Male/Female, 2 - 3 yrs expenence in related field
- Marketing, Mass Communication, Advertising graduate or related course

DISTRIBUTOR / MONITORING SUPERVISOR
- Graduate of any 4 yr course
- With at least 1 - 2 yrs supervisory experience
- Methodical, hardworking, meticulous with work
- Can work on weekends
- Knowledgeable in Video Equipments
- Male, not more than 25 yrs old , computer literate

Submit your resume w/ 2x2 photo, Transcript of Record, Employment Certificates & NBI Clearance

Unit 174 - 17/F Columbia Tower,
Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City
Email: recruitment_sil@yahoo.com.ph
Pls. look for Ms. Cora Fermin

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
- Female, with pleasing personality
- College graduate of any Business or Engineering course
- Experience in Cargo Shipping / Forwarding an advantage
- Excellent in oral and written communication skills
- Highly skilled in computer applications

Please call and send your resumé and application letter at:

ISOTAINER SHIPPING AGENCIES, INC.
Suite 503 West City Plaza Bldg.,
#66 West Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. Nos.: 411-4452/411-4454/416-2190 • Fax No.: 416-8363
or Email at: **mylene_manimtim@tri-isys.com**

WANTED:
PLANT ENGINEER
(GREAT NEW OPPORTUNITY)

Qualification:
- Oversee plant set-up and future maintenance
- Graduate of Bachelor in Chemical or Mechanical Engineer or equivalent experience or degree.
- Must have at least 5 years of experience in Industrial or Manufacturing Engineering.
- Must have at least 1-2 years of management experience.

Apply in person or by E-mail

Address : Unit 3&4, Sunny Realty Compound, Sundoval Ave., Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City
Tel. No. . 628-3629 or 628-3631
E-mail address . rsolem@eldoradostone.com

Kimberly-Clark

Enhancing the health, hygiene and well-being
of
people everyday, everywhere
Our company, a manufacturer of well-known and leading
health and hygiene consumer products, invites applicants to the following positions :

MILL ACCOUNTANT

Male/Female.
Willing to be based in San Pedro, Laguna.
Certified Public Accountant.
With at least 6 months to 1 year related work experience.
Must be a Team player, has keen eye to details, can handle and meet multiple deadlines,
Flexible, Collaborative, Decisive and with Personal/Organizational sensitivity.
Familiarity with inventory principles, systems and reporting.
With above average oral and written communication skills.

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLES ANALYST

Male/Female.
Willing to be based in Makati.
Certified Public Accountant.
With at least 1 year related work experience.
Must be Organized, Focused, Flexible, Team player, Systematic, Analytic,
Collaborative, Decisive and with Personal/Organizational sensitivity.
With above average oral and written communication skills.

These are URGENT requirements.

Interested applicants may email their resume with latest photo and contact information to :
HRD.PH@kcc.com or alejandro.dela.cruz@kcc.com

or mail to :
The Recruitment Officer
Kimberly-Clark Philippines, Inc.
32F The Enterprise Centre, Tower I
Ayala Avenue cor Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

We will reply to shortlisted candidates only.

Huggies Kleenex Kotex JOY EMPRESS Purity Kimberly-Clark Professional

EDMARK®

We are in need of the following personnel
to fill up our vacant positions:

DATABASE/SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR

Qualifications:
- Not more than 40 years old
- With strong Leadership and Managerial Skills
- Can communicate well with all levels of staff especially with top management, as well as with business partners
- Fluent in oral and written English
- Graduate of Computer Science or Computer Engineering
- With at least 3 years continuous experience in I.T. practice
- Extensive experience in using SQL Server and its procedural language
- Experienced in programming Visual Basic as front end tool
- Experienced in setting up Local Area Network
- Can troubleshoot hardware/software problems
- Preferably, has worked with Multi-Level Networking Company

HR COORDINATOR

- Not more than 30 years old
- Minimum of 2 years work related experience
- Computer literate
- Available for work immediately

AUDIT STAFF/BOOKKEEPER

- Preferably Male
- Bachelor of Science in Accountancy (BSA)
- Computer literate
- With experience
- Below 30 years old
- Must have the right attitude towards assigned responsibility and willing to take the extra mile and grow with the company.

EDMARK PHILIPPINES, INC.
#355 P. Tuazon Blvd. cor. 21st Avenue
Cubao, Quezon City
or you may email us at
Cubao@edmark.int.com

Previous applicants need not apply

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

ACCOUNTING CLERKS/BOOKKEEPERS

Accounting Graduate, between 21-25 years old, Computer Literate, with experience in bookeeping and can work with minimum supervision

SAFETY PRACTITIONER

Licensed Civil Engineer, with Dole Certificate of Accreditation, Minimum of 3 years experience, Not more than 35 years old, Computer literate

PROJECT ENGINEERS

Licensed Civil Engineer, Not more than 35 years old, with or without experience, Computer literate, Willing to be assigned anywhere

SAFETY OFFICERS

Civil Engineering Graduate, Preferably licensed Civil Engineer, Not more than 35 years old, with or without experience, Willing to be assigned anywhere, Computer literate.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY APPLY AT:

30 BARCELONA COMPOUND,
BAHAY TORO, Q.C.

Please bring Comprehensive Resumé with 2x2 picture and other credentials.

WANTED

10 – ALUMINUM CLADDER / INSTALLER

Apply in person at:
SILVER HORIZON CONSTRUCTION, INC.
SHTCI Bldg. No. 6 San Isidro St.,
Bo. Kapitolyo Subd. Pineda, Pasig City
Look for : Susan or Sheryll
Tel. Nos. : 632-0312
635-4839

MANILA PAVILION

WATERFRONT HOTELS & CASINOS

We are currently looking for dynamic people with service oriented competencies who has the potential to lead a group and contribute to the fast growth of our organization.

RESERVATIONS MANAGER

Responsible for managing, supervising, planning and directing the operations pertinent to processing rooms reservations and other related to generating rooms revenues within the limits of establishing guidelines, standards and procedures of the Hotel.

- With at least three (3) years of work experience in reservations & two (2) years of which in supervisory or managerial capacity
- With excellent communication & interpersonal skills

REVENUE MANAGER

Responsible for analyzing, evaluating and monitoring trends, forecasts, developments and other factors affecting periodic revenue performance as basis for designing and implementing strategic measures for maximizing revenue potentials within the limits of applicable and appropriate revenue management concepts, theories and industry practices.

- With at least 1 year of related work experience
- Highly analytical and above average mathematical skills
- With in depth understanding of the Hotel's operating procedures as well as concepts, practices, strategies pertinent to revenue management;
- Literacy in computer operations, particularly of systems for Front Office and/or Sales and Catering of Fidelio

Chief Steward

Responsible for planning, organizing, setting direction and controlling the day-to-day operation of the Stewarding Section ensuring optimized use, handling, care and allocation of hotel operating outlets and banquet events;

- At least three (3) years of working experience in Stewarding preferably in a 5 star Hotel, two (2) years of which in a supervisory or managerial capacity
- Capable of undertaking storekeeping, inventory procedures and safety; with understanding of Food & Beverage related procedures an advantage

Chief Engineer

- Graduate of BSME, PME license required
- At least five (5) years of working experience in Hotel Building Operations
- Knowledgeable in operation of Boilers, Chillers, Genset, Substation, Elevators, refrigeration, Systems Construction and Installation

Plant Operation Leadman

- BSME or BSEE license holder
- With experience in Hotel Building Operations

Project Manager

- Graduate of BSCE or Architecture with PRC license
- With 5 years minimum experience in Construction management

Food & Beverage Sales Coordinator

- Fluent in Chinese (Mandarin or Fukien)
- With previous Marketing and Sales experience an advantage

Guest Services Officer

- With at least one (1) year previous hotel front desk experience
- Ability to speak additional languages an advantage.

Interested applicants may apply personally or send their credentials (resume' and 2X2 colored picture) to: Peers Resources & Development Department 4th Floor Manila Pavilion Hotel, United Nations Ave., Ermita, Manila on or before Sept. 15, 2006. Late applications will not be accepted.

For further inquiries, please call (63-2) 526-1212 loc. 2353 / 2354 or send your e-mail to **s.david@manilapavilion.com.ph.**

King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

The King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre – Riyadh is JCIA* accredited and operates 722 beds with approximately 8,700 employees. Located in the capital of Saudi Arabia, the hospital provides a full range of tertiary, secondary and primary health care programs at its main campus facility, as well as the King Fahad National Children's Cancer Centre. The KFSH & RC is the national referral center for Oncology, Organ Transplantation, Cardiovascular Diseases and Genetic Diseases.

Staff Nurses

With two years experience are now required for all specialties including Medical / Surgical, Neonatal and Pediatric ICUs, Recover Room, Pediatrics, CVT, Cardiac, Oncology, Hematology, BMT, Clinics

Successful candidates can avail of the following attractive benefits:

- *Sign-on Bonus for certain areas*
- *Tax Free Salary*
- *Premium Pay for certain areas*
- *Annual Bonus*
- *Severance Pay*
- *Free Accommodation and Utilities*
- *Free Flights*
- *Free Medical*
- *Relocation Allowance*
- *54-day Annual Leave*
- *Excellent Professional Development Opportunities*

EXPERIENCED REQUIRED: Staff Nurse in the assigned specialty, preferably with St. Luke's Medical Center, Philippine Heart Center, Makati Medical Center, Manila Doctor's Hospital, Chinese General Hospital, Asian Hospital, Cardinal Santos Medical Centre, Philippine General Hospital, Philippine Children's Medical Center, Veterans Memorial Hospital, ABM Sison Medical Centre (Medical City), Kidney Center of the Philippines, Metropolitan Hospital, Lourdes Hospital, Capitol Medical Centre, St. James Medical Centre, Angeles Medical Centre, Cebu Doctor's Hospital, Velez Hospital-Cebu City, Iloilo Mission Hospital-Iloilo, Iloilo Doctor's Hospital, Davao Doctor's Hospital and San Pedro Hospital.

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS must PERSONALLY register and submit detailed resume with job descriptions, certificates of employment / training, diploma and transcript of records, board license / certificate, valid PRC card, two (2) letters of reference from previous / current supervisor, No Objection Certificate (for ex-Saudi), passport copy (if available) and 1 pc. Passport size picture, between 8-4 PM or the nearest POEA Regional Extension Unit, for the issuance of KFSH Application Form and Skills Checklist. Please call 7221174 / 75 for further inquiries. Qualified candidates may also send their CVs to **poea_gpb@yahoo.com.**

Representatives of KFSH & RC, Riyadh, will conduct the interview on 22 September 2006 at the POEA Auditorium.

'Come for the Experience; Stay for the Opportunities'

PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION
MANPOWER REGISTRY DIVISION, WINDOW IM
Ground Floor, Left Wing Lobby
EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City
"Mag-ingat sa mga Illegal Recruiters"

The **PEACE AND EQUITY FOUNDATION (PEF)** is a non-stock, non-profit organization that provides development financing to empower poor communities to attain their desired quality of human life. It supports best practices as well as innovative and trailblazing projects for basic services, livelihood and employment, and social capital development to reduce poverty.

The Foundation is searching for qualified and committed individuals who are willing and able to make a difference in other people's lives by actively participating in the Foundation's pursuit of its mission. For details about PEF, please visit our website: www.peacefdn.org

The Position — **PROGRAM OFFICER**

Key Responsibilities The Program Officer is responsible for the processing of project contracts, agreements and fund releases. S/he will conduct initial appraisal of project proposals, will coordinate meetings and other project-related events; maintain project related database; will prepare project reports and will perform other related administrative and technical functions.

Minimum Qualifications:

Academic Qualifications	: College Graduate Preferably with specialization on either Economics, Business Management or Social Development and with experience in social development work
Experience Required	: At least three years field experience in a similar position
Competencies Required	: Organization of tasks for efficiency and effectiveness Analysis and interpretation of project feasibility Database administration Project Evaluation skills Communication skills: oral and written; technical writing Computer literacy: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access or other database software
Working knowledge	: Analysis of Financial Statement Business Management tools
Terms of contract	: six (6) months renewable

To Apply : Please forward your letter of application, comprehensive resume, transcript of records and recent photo to:

Human Resource and General Services Unit
Peace and Equity Foundation
69 Esteban Abada Street, Loyola Heights, Quezon City 1108
Telefax: (02) 426-84-02 local 102
Email Address: hrgs@peacefdn.org

Deadline for Application : 4 September 2006

(Only Short-listed candidates will be invited for interview)

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE ADVISOR

An international development organization has an immediate need for an ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE ADVISOR who will lead the urban environment team in designing, implementing and evaluating approaches to improve the delivery of urban environmental services through increased investment to urban environmental infrastructure. Central to this role is to ensure the establishment and sustainable operation of the Philippine Water Revolving Fund (PWRF). The incumbent, under the guidance of the Office Chief and of the Urban Environmental Management (UEM) Team Leader, will represent the organization in important negotiations involving PWRF. As a recognized expert in environmental infrastructure financing issues, the Advisor will also serve as the team's Specialist for all its financing-related activities. S/he will work under the general direction of the Team Leader of the Urban Environmental Management Team with exercise of independent judgment and formal decision making authority. The candidate must meet the following qualifications:

- Master's Degree in a field related to municipal financing, water financing, economics, finance or public administration.
- Six to eight years of professional level experience related to urban infrastructure financing, water financing, or municipal financing is required. This should include strategy formulation and program management in a development context. Experience in human and institutional capacity building is preferred.
- Should have demonstrated capability to design and implement environmental infrastructure financing strategies and to collaborate with diverse stakeholders and partners.
- Excellent command of English (both written and oral), computer skills, ability to develop and delivery professional quality reports and presentations, strong interpersonal and teamwork skills are essential.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan are offered.

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resumé, **not later than September 08, 2006,** to:

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

(Private Sector)

An international development organization has an immediate need for a PROJECT DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST who will serve as the Private Sector Development Specialist in designing and managing private sector activities of the organization. He/She will work in collaboration with the entire team and will serve as a member of the Private Sector sub-team. The incumbent will be responsible for promoting sound decision making concerning the provision of maternal and child health, family planning services, as well as supporting HIV / AIDS / STD, emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases like SARS and Avian Influenza, and tuberculosis prevention utilizing private sector approaches. S/he will establish goals for action, monitor progress and recommend changes as needed. The incumbent will be responsible for evaluating and monitoring public sector policies that affect the private sector; and, in keeping all team members and stakeholders informed of the latest changes in national and local level laws and systems relative to the private sector delivery of maternal and child health, family planning, infectious diseases and other public health services and products. S/he will also serve as the Activity Manager of various contracts / agreements / grants for the implementation of the private sector activities. This will involve market analysis that will help determine the right products and services to be introduced by the private sector. The incumbent will also coordinate with senior government and private sector officials, and will backstop other Specialists whose work includes activities that have substantial private sector involvement. The candidate must meet the following qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in a field relevant to commercial health systems such as health or hospital administration, public and business administration, marketing, economics and other related fields, Ph.D., M.A., MBA, MS and other post-graduate degrees will be considered, but appointment will normally require demonstrated ability to perform at the senior level.
- Six to eight years of progressively responsible, professional level experience in private health care institutions or health related commercial activities, at least five years of which, is on marketing of services and products.
- Excellent command of English (both written and oral), computer skills, ability to develop and deliver professional quality reports and presentations, strong interpersonal and teamwork skills are essential.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan are offered.

Interested persons should have send their application letter and comprehensive resumé, **not later than September 08, 2006, to:**

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Master's degree in the social sciences, with at least seven years of experience in development work; significant experience in conflict-affected areas/communities in Mindanao; knowledge of current peace process directions, initiatives and issues; excellent analytical, writing, and representational skills; a capacity for effectively managing a diverse workforce; and experience in mobilising resources for organisational sustainability.

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Identify priority training needs and develop milestones for institutional development interventions. Facilitate the development of a capacity building program for stakeholders. Conduct periodic workshops with stakeholders on lessons learned in order to refine the approach, identify bottlenecks to implementation, and formulate remedial measures. Undertake monitoring exercises to assess the quality of training programs provided. Help build local capacities through training, mentoring, and coaching.

Master's degree in the social sciences, with at least five years of progressively responsible service in a similar capacity; demonstrated training and mentoring skills with significant experience in Mindanao; excellent analytical, writing, and representational skills; and willingness to travel throughout the conflict affected-areas.

Field Operations Coordinator

Facilitate, support, and monitor field operations in the conflict-affected areas of Mindanao. Assist partners in identifying and addressing issues in the field level implementation. Ensure compliance with implementation policies and standards. Foster linkages with other development partners in the area. Help build local capacities through training and coaching.

Master's degree in the social sciences, with at least five years of progressively responsible service in a similar capacity; demonstrated training and mentoring skills with significant experience in Mindanao; excellent analytical, writing, and representational skills; and willingness to travel throughout the conflict affected-areas.

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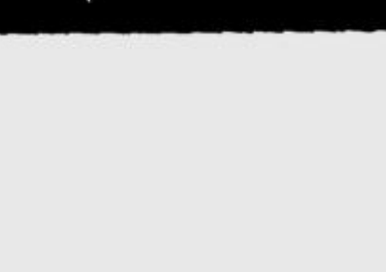
Strike a balance between family and work

Q: "HOW CAN I ACHIEVE BAlance in personal and professional life?"

I have been working for more than 15 years in a large manufacturing firm. I like my job, as it gives me a sense of achievement. Over the years, I got rewarded for my contributions and now I am a senior supervisor.

My schedule is usually hectic and I am beginning to realize that my whole life is my work. Because of this, I tend to neglect my health and my family. Can you tell me how to balance my personal and professional life?

Anxious Juggler



A: I am glad that you realize what's happening in your life. Millions of other employees just go on till retirement without realizing the imbalance that usually happens among loyal and dedicated employees. There is nothing wrong with being loyal and dedicated. In fact, you should be if you want to reap the rewards from working.

But life is not all work.

Healthy tension

Life is not an "either/or" proposition. We live in an environment where there is work and there is play. You get pressured to complete a task, but you must ensure good relationship with others in doing your task. All around us, we see tension between opposing teams, opposing ideologies, male versus female, old versus young, as we live in a continuum of polarities.

Robert Aitken Roshi reminds us, "Healthy tension is the natural complementarity of structure and inspiration, responsibility and personal fulfillment, discipline and freedom, authority and egalitarianism, tradition and relevance, male and female, form and void, life and nonexistence. Neglect one side of the pair, and it will turn around and bite."

Like it or not, life is like that. There are several aspects of life that demand our attention as we live—work and play, ourselves and others, etc.

Balancing act

To enjoy life to the fullest, we must be aware that a tension exists between the polarities described by Roshi. It is unavoidable. But that tension can be healthy, if we know how to maintain the right balance.

Let's be glad that nature helps us in our balancing act. If we work too much and neglect our health, we get sick and must stop working. If we play more and work less, we will not have

enough money to pay for our expenses. If we spend more than we earn, we get saddled with debt. If we don't pay our debts, our creditors run after us. There are "cause and effect" situations in our life. Luck has nothing to do with what happens to you—it's the cause you did that produced the effect that you enjoy or suffer.

It seems that the easy solution to this age-old dilemma is moderation. But it is easier said than done. People know that sweet, oily and salty foods are bad to our health if taken in excess. Yet, we see all around us a lot of sick people because they eat more of these than they should. One third of the world population are obese and have heart problems while two-thirds are dying of starvation. If that is not imbalance, I don't know what is.

What you can do

Here are a few helpful tips in balancing your life.

1. Understand that there is more to life than just work. We also have to pay attention to our health, our finances, our family, our spirituality, our community, career and professional development, and other aspects of life that are important to us.

2. For each aspect that is important to you, list down descriptions of your present situation. List down what you are doing in excess or what you are neglecting and those crying out for your attention.

3. For each aspect, draw up an ideal situation. List down the results you want to see in each area. For instance, in your "Personal Finances" aspect, if you see that you have a P1 million debt, you might want a result like "reduction of debt to zero in five years." You might list down "closer family relations" in your "Family" aspect. Be specific and don't strive to be too grandiose. Sometimes, simple things that don't cost you can put more balance in your life.

4. To achieve the results you want, list down under each result area the things that you have to STOP doing, START doing, and CONTINUE doing. Write down what will increase your chances of achieving the results you want. List down practical things that you can do without putting additional tension on yourself. For instance, you can "take out children every Sunday" and you can do it after lunch. That way, you don't have to spend much.

5. Review and revise these lists and keep a copy handy. Discuss the lists with your family and ask for support and advice. They might be able to suggest something that can help you achieve the balance you want. They will also understand the problem that you have.

Periodically, go back to your lists and see how you are doing. Of course, there will be compromises. You may need the support and understanding of other people to achieve your plans. Identify who these are and ask for their support.

Never attempt to neglect an important aspect of your life. Spend time for yourself as you spend time for others. Don't rub people the wrong way, even if you have to complete a task in a rush. Above all, never neglect your health—you'll need it to achieve all others in your list.

If you do this right, you will reap the rewards of a more balanced life. As for me, I have narrowed down my key results areas to love, peace and prosperity. I know what I want and how to get them. Whenever panic or stress comes knocking, I refer to my lists and say, "Sorry, my schedule is full. I don't have time for panic or stress."

(Public service announcement: "Tiripon 2006, a grand alumni homecoming of the University of Nueva Caceres, Naga City, will be held on Sept. 9. Please e-mail me for details.)

(Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. Send feedback to ernie_cecilia@yahoo.com.)

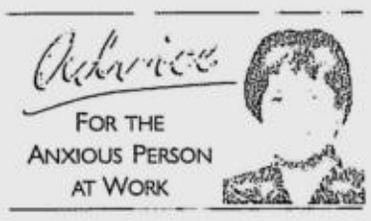
'My problem covers work, family and social life!'

By Tita Datu Puangco

I NEED SOME ADVICE ABOUT the complicated problem I am experiencing right now. The problem covers aspects of my career, family and social life.

Since my childhood, I have been working. I had my primary and secondary schooling in a private school. Those years developed my talents and competitive leadership skills. In addition I have passion for analysis, innovation and design. My passion was enhanced further playing chess at the professional level. However, due to financial family problems I was obliged to help our family's business (street vending of garments). After school and during weekends and holidays, my time was spent working. This resulted in no social life and not being able to exert my full effort in my studies.

In college, I took up a business-related engineering course on the insistence of my father. I studied in a reputable private university. I was connected then with the school's chess varsity team and became an athletic scholar for almost two years. Due to financial problems, I got part-time work in a service industry. My life then was studying in the morning and working in the afternoon until night. This lasted for two and a half years. I became the breadwinner of my family.



After college I landed a job in a manufacturing firm. The position I got was exactly what I was trained for; however the compensation was not so competitive, because I was hired through an agency. I am in my sixth month of my one-year contract. Staying here is no pressure for me. It gives me time to strategize my career by utilizing my spare time at work to study the present and future of the stable/emerging high-paying BPO [business process outsourcing] industry. I also did things for future career advancement, increasing my marketability in the job market like attending short courses, reading technical books and most importantly communicating effectively in verbal or written English.

First, my professional and career problems, I am dissatisfied with my current work for the following reasons: I feel bad when the proposals I make are not approved. Being an idealist, I don't know how I can survive the Filipino-like political system. I am the one who designs and implements my job. My job lacks spice because there is no evident job competition. So there is no point in rushing jobs. I don't know if they care about what I do. I work solely for my own initiative and purpose. I need greater motivation to work.

I have to work for my family so I don't have a choice but to stick to my job. I am planning to resign, and terminate my contract, however, I cannot do it because my superior is resigning on Dec. 31 after 27 years in the company. Resigning at this time is unethical and surely will have a negative impact once I tell my boss.

On my problems with my family: I do not have good relations with my father. I see him as an egoistic, career-oriented individual who loves the power that money brings.

My sister is a selfish happy-go-lucky individual who doesn't care for me and does things only for her own welfare. She only knows how to ask money/allowance from my mother to whom I give part of my salary. I am tired of working for my family. I have no real support, words or deeds just like working for an unappreciatve, demanding and moody boss, But I must work.

I haven't had any girlfriend since childhood even though I look OK. I have a few friends.

What is the problem about me? Am I really complicated? I know many things logically, knowing this leads me to knowing nothing!

Imprisoned
Ready-to-roar Tiger

I feel much empathy for your situation. You encountered many challenges growing up. But these challenges have also shaped you to be the unique and strong person that you have become. If I am in your place I will take the following steps:

One, is to count your blessings. God has given you a quick wit, strong physique, above average intelligence. I am sure when He decided to give you to your family, He was aware that you will become a pillar for them in the emotional and financial support. Our consumer society often entices us to become individualistic, to engage in self-pity because other people lean on us. It often nags us to focus on ourselves, our bank account, our carrying an unfair load of responsibility. Instead of putting caring in our helping, we put derision and resentment. You resent your sister and your father. What if instead of looking at all these facts as " downers" you put a bright, pink frame to your situation. Consider the in-born talents that you have been able to optimize, think of the hard work that gave you skills, thank God that you are able to keep your family from slipping into poverty.

Two, is to move closer to your family members. Instead of keeping a distance, give them unconditional love. Instead of judging, try to be one with them and their interests. Try to discover the good that lies in the hearts of your father and sister. Often we judge externalities. But inside they have hearts of flesh that beat just like yours. Slowly, you will see that they will respond, warmth for warmth, caring for caring. One day, you will reach the point where you can serenely and quietly disclose and plan with them how they can share the burden of the

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

family expenses. Your sister is still in school and you may have to wait a few years. Your father may be waiting for the right moment when he can be more open to you. Help until it becomes reciprocal.

Three, is to try to be more outer rather than inner directed. Introverts often spend a lot of time in their inner worlds. You have to force yourself to be interested in other people, who they are and what they do. Discover beauty, talent and goodness around you. Once you have taken the healthy life position of "I am OK, you're OK" recognizing that you have strengths and weaknesses and others have theirs, then you are headed in the right direction. Try to remember the serenity prayer of St. Francis, " Lord give me the courage to change the things I can, to accept the things that I cannot change and the wisdom to know the difference." The key is to accept the things we cannot change, like our past and its bruises. Instead, move forward, live the present moment well.

Finally, congratulations for seeking help. What is important is to gain awareness of who we are and our situation, confronting reality, then we can move on to changing the things we can. When you are able to be kinder to yourself, then a girlfriend may just be around the corner for you.

The key is not to seek or yearn for competition at work or on the job, but to seek to be a team player with meaningful relationships. Relationships are what make life and work fulfilling and enjoyable. God bless!

(Puangco is the CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company. Feedback at advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax 892-2902. You may also check the author's blog at* www.pinoyatwork.livejournal.com.*)*

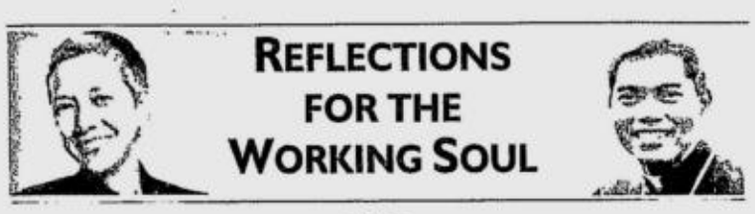
The fruit of religiosity

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

IT MAY BE HARD TO BELIEVE BUT THERE ARE MANY WHO THINK spirituality and work should be separate, something like State and Church. While there are more and more people who believe spirituality has a definite role in the workplace, there are still others—decision-makers, at that—who maintain that excellence on the job is attained solely through skills upgrading and the learning and application of new methods and technology. They'd much rather leave the matter of ethics and values to the individual worker himself, saying a person's religious beliefs or practice is too personal to be the company's concern.

That kind of separation between work and spirituality may be effective in certain cultures but not among Filipinos who are by nature a "believing" people. In our workplaces we make room for little altars, religious images and symbols; we find time to squeeze Mass or rosary into our working hours. And yet, in those very workplaces, evil continues to rear its ugly head in our utilitarian relationships with our coworkers, and in the form of sins, big and small—from little white lies to corruption in high places. There must be something amiss then with the way we regard our religion.

It's high time we took our piousness to the next level. A religiosity that does not open our eyes to our wrongdoing and make us want to change for the better can do more harm than good in the long run. The fruit of our religiosity is visible in our conduct at the workplace. If we want real excellence at the workplace, we should get our act together: we shouldn't display Jesus statuettes on our desks while filing away His word and spirit in the archives. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)



Gospel: Jn 6: 60-69

It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe.

Spirit and life

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

ALL KINDS OF WORK, EVEN THOSE WHICH SEEM VERY MECHANIcal, routinary or muscle-powered, require the use of the human mind or spirit, albeit, unconsciously or unwittingly on the part of the worker. It is the mind which grasps the meaning of the otherwise senseless motions of the human body and its parts used in doing a certain task. It is the understanding of such meaning which motivates the worker to continue the work and makes him appreciate the true value of his activity. Without the human spirit which could grasp clearly the meaning and value of human work, one would seem to discover no "life" in doing one's job more than the physical life he could enjoy by what his work could earn and provide.

Yet, a higher kind of "spirit" is offered by Christ which in turn would produce a higher kind of "life" in the worker. This kind of spirit comes from the words of Jesus. He declares, "The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life." So, if anyone wants to try this higher kind of spirit and life coming from Jesus, he needs to make His words part of his life and work.

The workplace could also welcome the words of Christ, not only by hanging posters or written reminders of some quotes from the Gospels, but also by perhaps allowing some periods of reading and reflection of God's words right where people are working. This may sound like a weird suggestion, or some unprofitable proposal wasting productive work time on some spiritual exercise. But, why not try believing in Jesus' words and see what profit you will gain? (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

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- **Preparedness & Emergency Response:** *work with others on preparedness, actual emergency response responsibilities shall be defined*

Core Personal Skills and Competencies
- University degree in relevant discipline: Development or Social Studies, Law or Economics
- Excellent interpersonal skills, can work with a multidisciplinary and diverse team
- Able to manage a diverse work load, applies initiative
- Proven ability to develop relationships and influence various disaster management actors, experienced in policy research & advocacy as well as networking and alliance building
- A good knowledge of disaster risk management and development issues in the Philippines
- Understanding of Philippine development including gender issues, and a demonstrated commitment to promoting gender equality
- Excellent oral and written communication in English and Filipino
- Budgeting and numeric skills
- Computer literate (Microsoft word, excel, power point)
- Willing to travel frequently, sometimes in remote areas for extended periods

Interested applicants are encouraged to send an application letter and CV to:

The Human Resources and Administrative Officer
Oxfam Great Britain
95-A Malumanay Street,Teacher's Village,
Diliman, Quezon City 1101
FAX: 927-0499 Email: etadeo@oxfam.org.uk

Deadline of application: 10 September 2006
Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview

Career Opportunities

Chevron

The Manila Shared Services Center of Chevron invites SAP and IT professionals to join its Enterprise Resource Planning - Center of Excellence (ERP-COE) Group. This group provides Systems Applications Products (SAP) support and consultancy to business application end-users located in Asia-Pacific and North America to ensure system integrity and quality. It strives to implement and perpetuate "Best Practice" processes within the business application User community, to optimize customer return on IT investments. Job requirements are in the following areas supporting the organization's diverse operations in the Asia Pacific and North America regions:

SAP CONSULTING	Qualifications
FICO Consultants MM Consultants SD Consultants BASIS Consultants HR Consultants BW Consultants PP Consultants	▪ Should have a relevant college degree (e.g. IT, Finance/Accounting) ▪ Preferably with at least one year SAP support or implementation expertise ▪ Fresh graduates from the SAP Academy may also be considered
PROJECT & CHANGE MANAGEMENT	**Qualifications**
Project Manager	▪ With at least 5 years Project Management experience (IT/ SAP-related projects ▪ Able to provide leadership and manage multiple relationships for medium to large IT projects (e.g., customers, stakeholders, vendors, etc.) ▪ Willing to travel
Change Management Consultant	▪ With at least 5 years relevant change management experience ▪ Preferably involved in the development and implementation of change management projects in an IT environment ▪ Willing to travel

All candidates should have excellent oral and written communication skills. They should be customer-driven, results-oriented, and good team players. They must have a high level of analytical and problem-solving skills. They should also be comfortable working in a fast-paced, dynamic, and multi-cultural environment.

Please send your resumés to Joy Austria of KSearch Asia Consulting, Inc.
22nd Floor, 139 Corporate Centre Building, 139 Corporate Centre, Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City.
Email jaustria@ksearchasia.com Fax 02 893 6259.

Applications received before 08 September 2006 will have an advantage.

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All information supplied will be treated as strictly confidential for the purpose of selection and recruitment. Only short-listed candidates will be notified.

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- With pleasing personality, discipline and
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Ortigas Center, Pasig City
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- Full-time position available

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- Applicants must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree in English, Communications, Journalism or equivalent
- With at least 2 years relevant research and writing experience, preferably for magazine, newspapers or in public relations or advertising
- Excellent command in English Language both oral and written
- Must have high analytical and comprehension skills
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- Full-Time position available

Responsibilities
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Please forward your resume with 2x2 ID picture to
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- ❑ Preferably Engineering graduate

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Must be a graduate of Computer Science course
Must be interested in the development of deep/complex Web sites
Must be interested in the development of Web-based applications
Must be skilled in either
+ Programming in C / C++ or similar language; or
+ Web development using PHP or ASP/.NET
Proficiency in XHTML, CSS, XML, and Javascript
+ Interest in AJAX a plus
Proficiency in Linux, Apache, MySQL a plus; or
+ Proficiency in Windows, IIS, MS SQL Server a plus
Prior experience in web development a plus

GRAPHIC DESIGNER (ICC)
Must be able to articulate and defend concepts and ideas
Must be able to think around creative problems and come up with practical design solutions
Must be able to manage time well and meet multiple deadlines
Must be able to work within a team
Proficiency in using Adobe CS applications is a must
Proficiency in using Adobe Flash and Dreamweaver is a must

Qualified Candidates are required to mail, e-mail or submit their resumé and 2x2 photos to:

Human Resources Unit
K2 INTERACTIVE (ASIA), INC.
10/F Orient Square Emerald Avenue Ortigas Center Pasig City 1605
E-mail: hr@k2ia.com

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DOLE issues pay rules on National Heroes Day

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Employment (DOLE) today said that National Heroes Day, Aug. 27, 2006, is a regular holiday.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said that based on Executive Order No. 292 of 1987, the event honoring the country's heroes in observed on the last Sunday of August.

He said the following rules shall apply on the observance of this regular holiday:

An employee will receive his regular wage even in he does not work on August 27, whether Sunday is his regular workday or rest day.

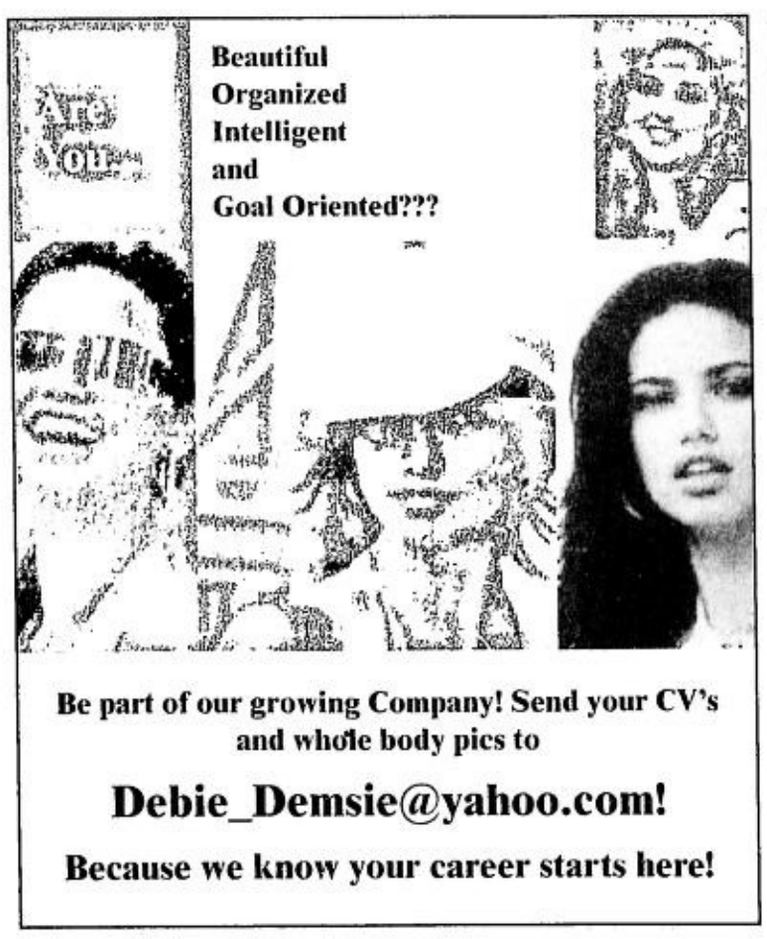
On the other hand, if Sunday is a regular workday for him and he works on Aug. 27, he gets 200% of his regular wage. If he works in excess of eight hours, he receives his hourly rate for that day (which is 200% of his regular wage divided by 8) plus 30% of that hourly rate.

If Sunday is his rest day and he works on Aug. 27, he receives 260% of his regular wage. If he renders overtime, he receives his hourly rate for that day (which is 260% of his regular wage divided by 8) plus 30% of that rate.

August 28 is a regular workday.

PMAP celebrates 50 years anniversary

THE PERSONNEL Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) the premiere human resource management organization in the country highlights its advocacies by giving 'gifts' to its major stakeholders during its 50th year anniversary this year. For the business community, people managers and students of human resources management, it is publishing a book entitled "People Management in the Philippines: Real Stories of Excellence." "Sharing the Light" aims to rehabilitate at least 50 public high school libraries all over the country. A conference to bring together educators and industry people to address mismatch issues is being planned in October together with a nationwide job fair. Plans to bring labor standards education to export processing sites are also being finalized.



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Or Call (02) 838-9433 to 35 for more info (look for Lisa or Roel).

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES INTERNATIONAL (CFSI)
seeks qualified applicants with diverse backgrounds for the following posts.

Expressions of interest as well as complete resumés should be submitted to the Screening Committee by 08 September 2006 through headquarters@cfsi.ph or MCC-PO Box 2733, Makati City. Responses will be sent to short-listed candidates only.

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Manage the accounting and finance functions of the Organisation including forecasting, budgeting, fund management, tax accounting, internal audit, reporting, and compliance with Government requirements and donor expectations. Supervise on-site and field-based finance teams. Serve as a member of the Senior Management Team. Based in Manila.

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AUGUST 27, 2006

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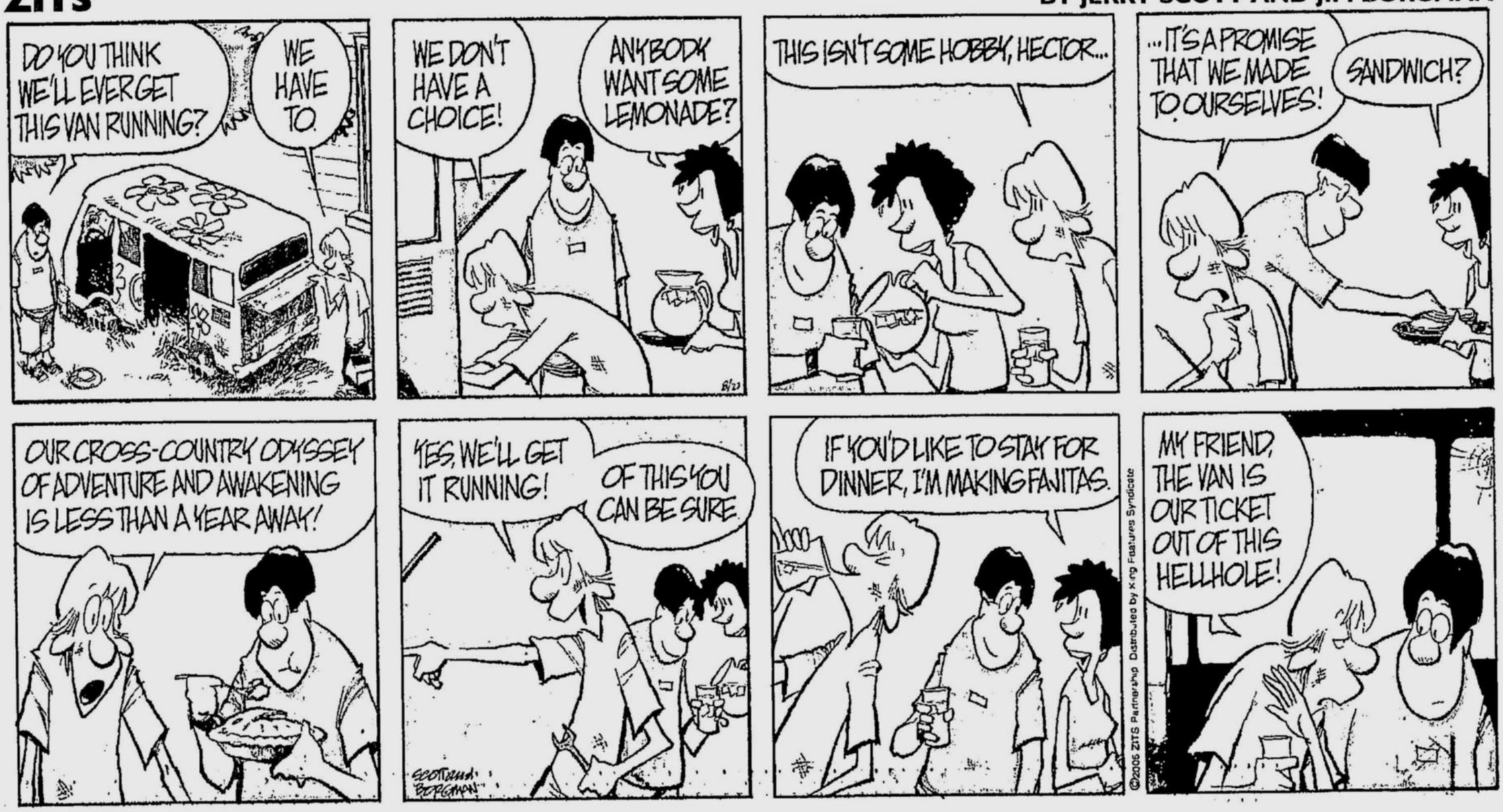

INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA

LEAVES of GLAZ

BY MANGO COMICS

• words by **CYAN ABAD-JUGO** • art by **MAISA DELURIA**

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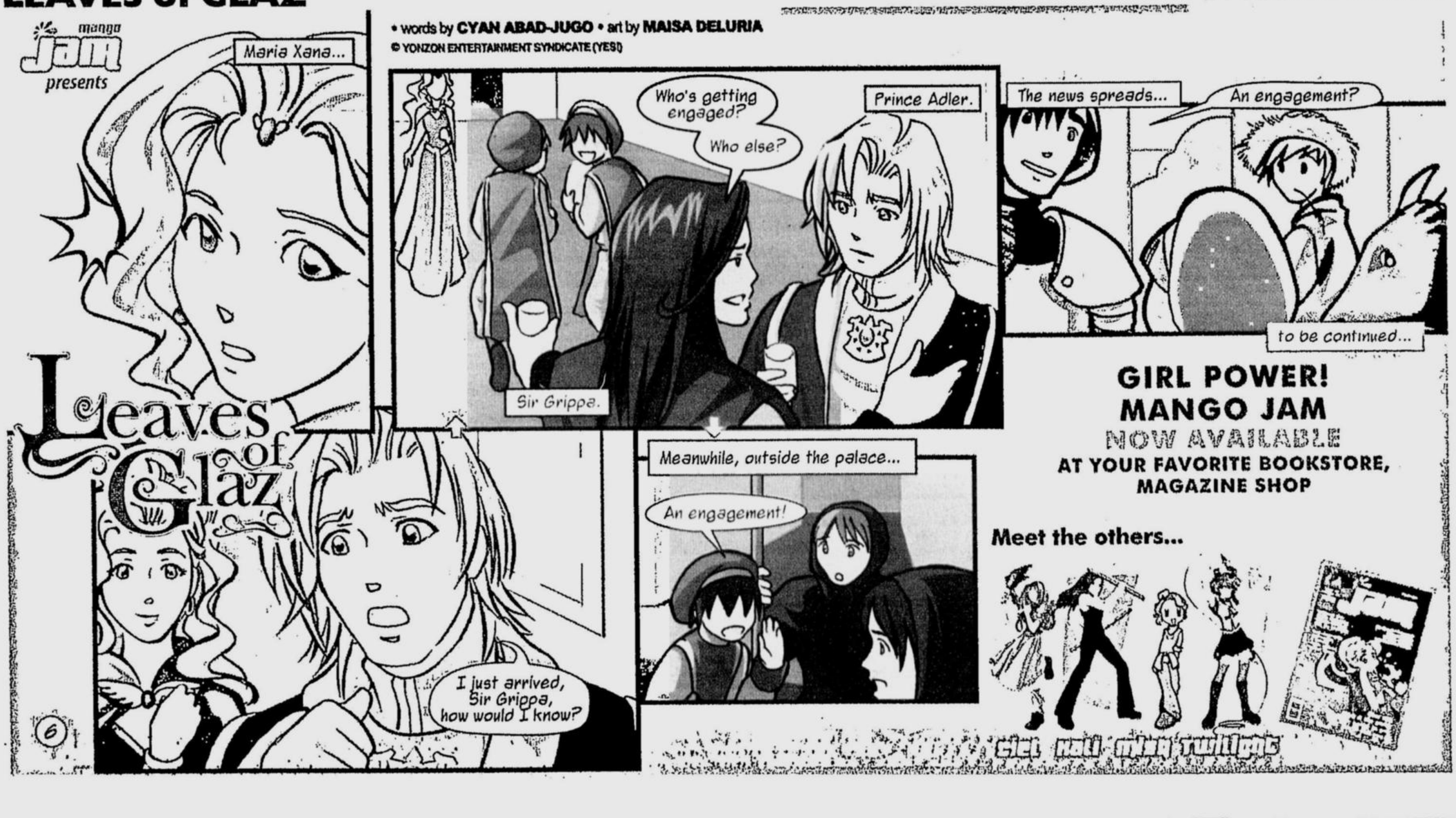
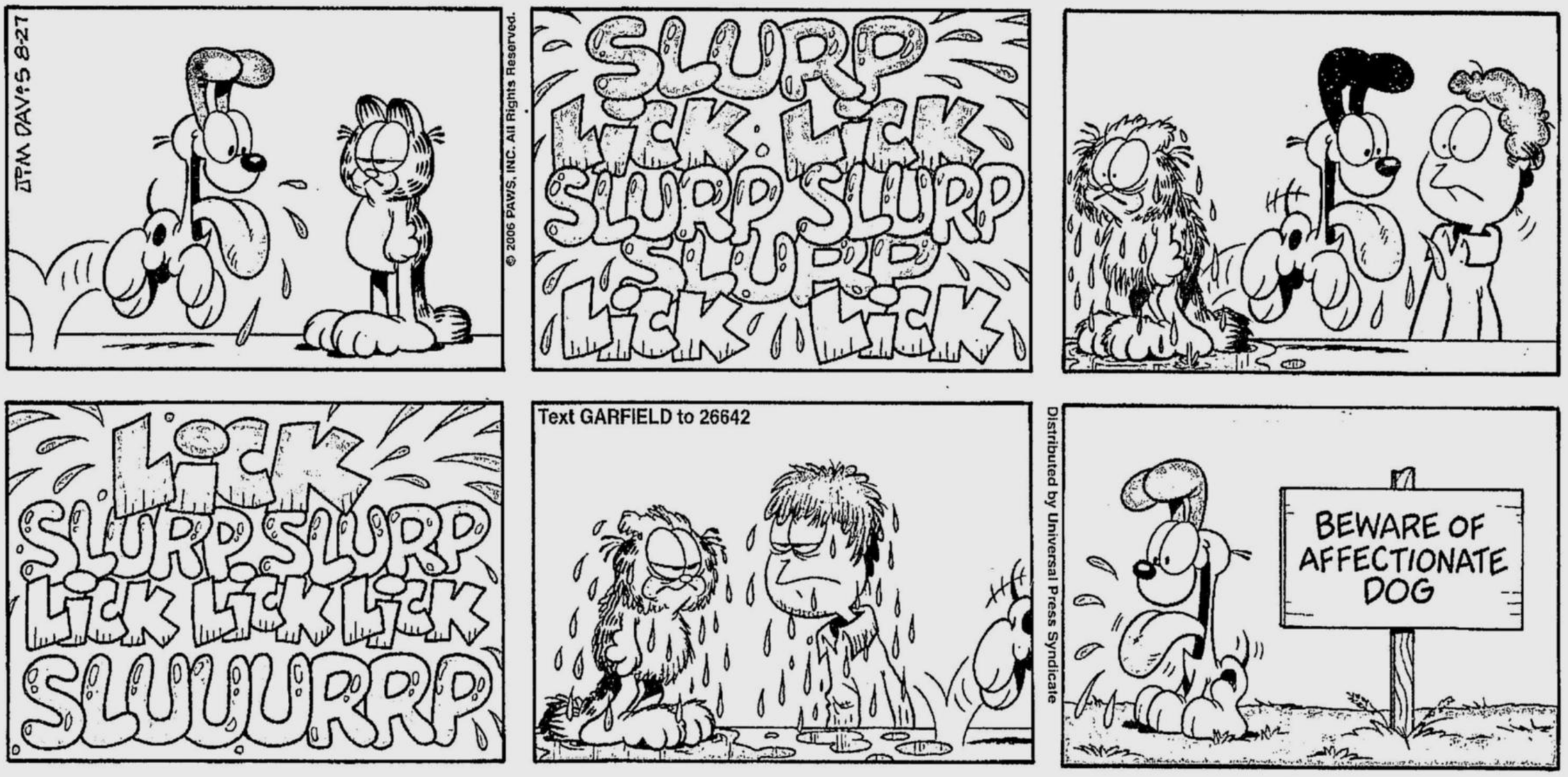


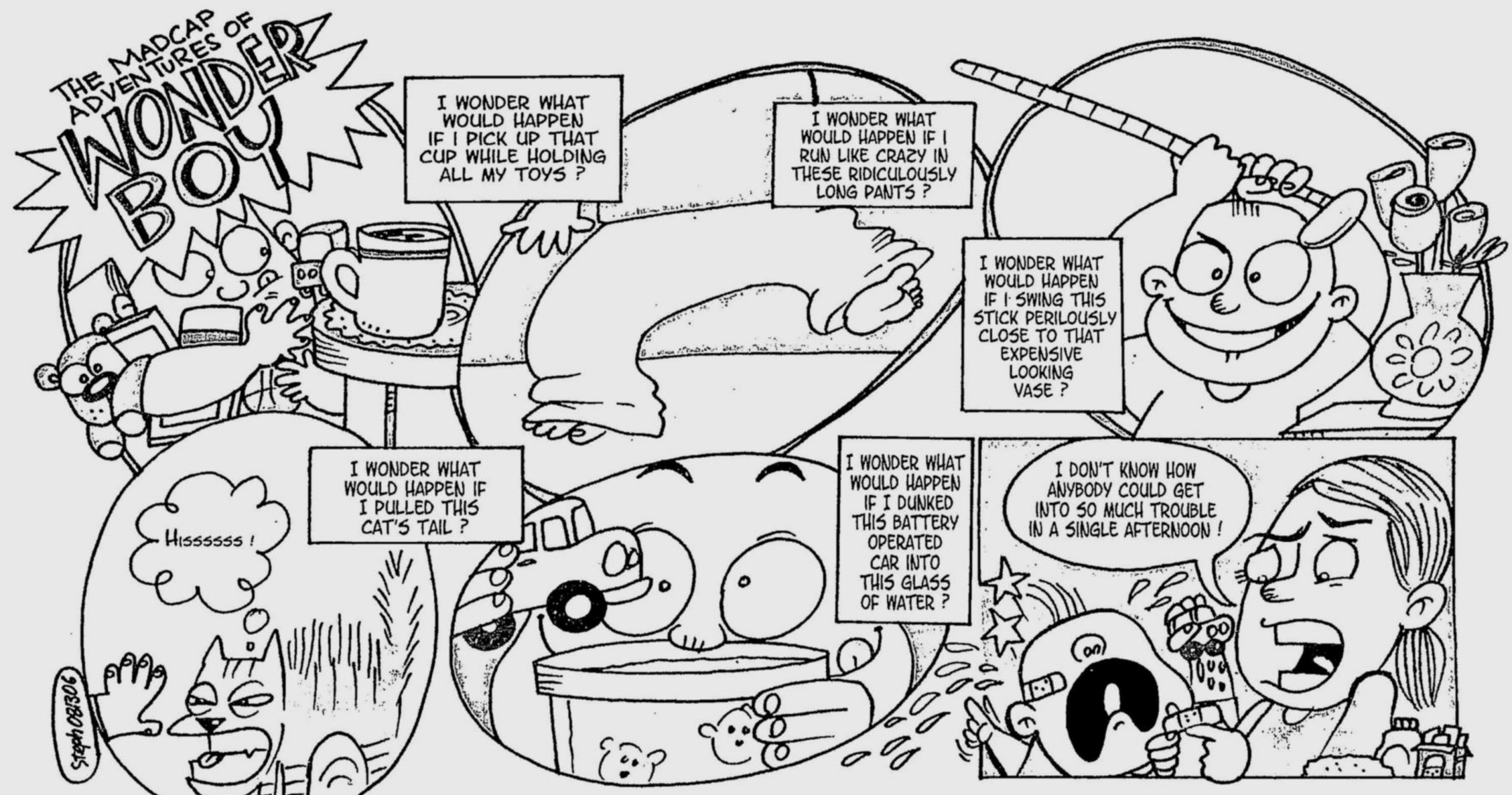
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

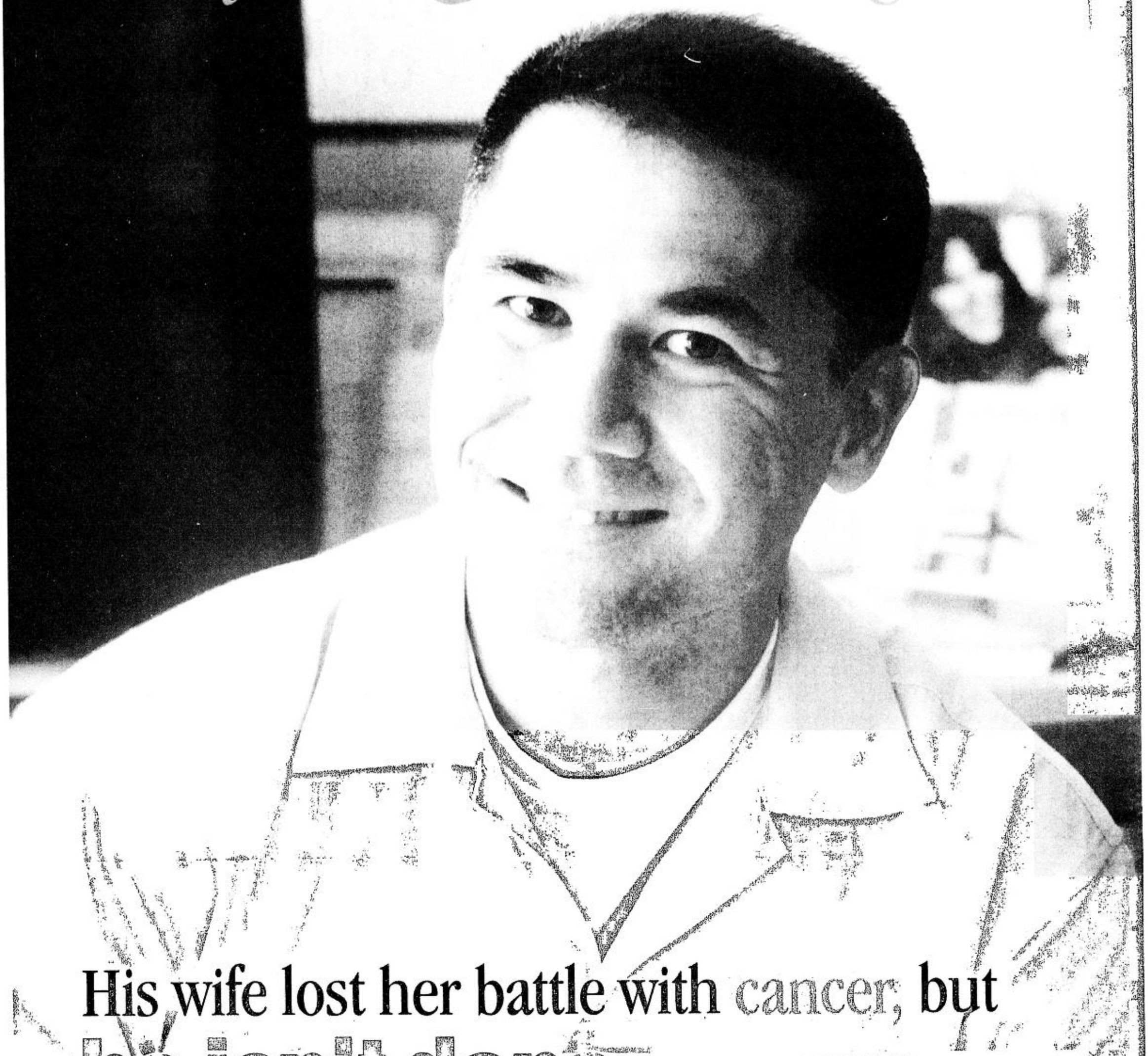


FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO

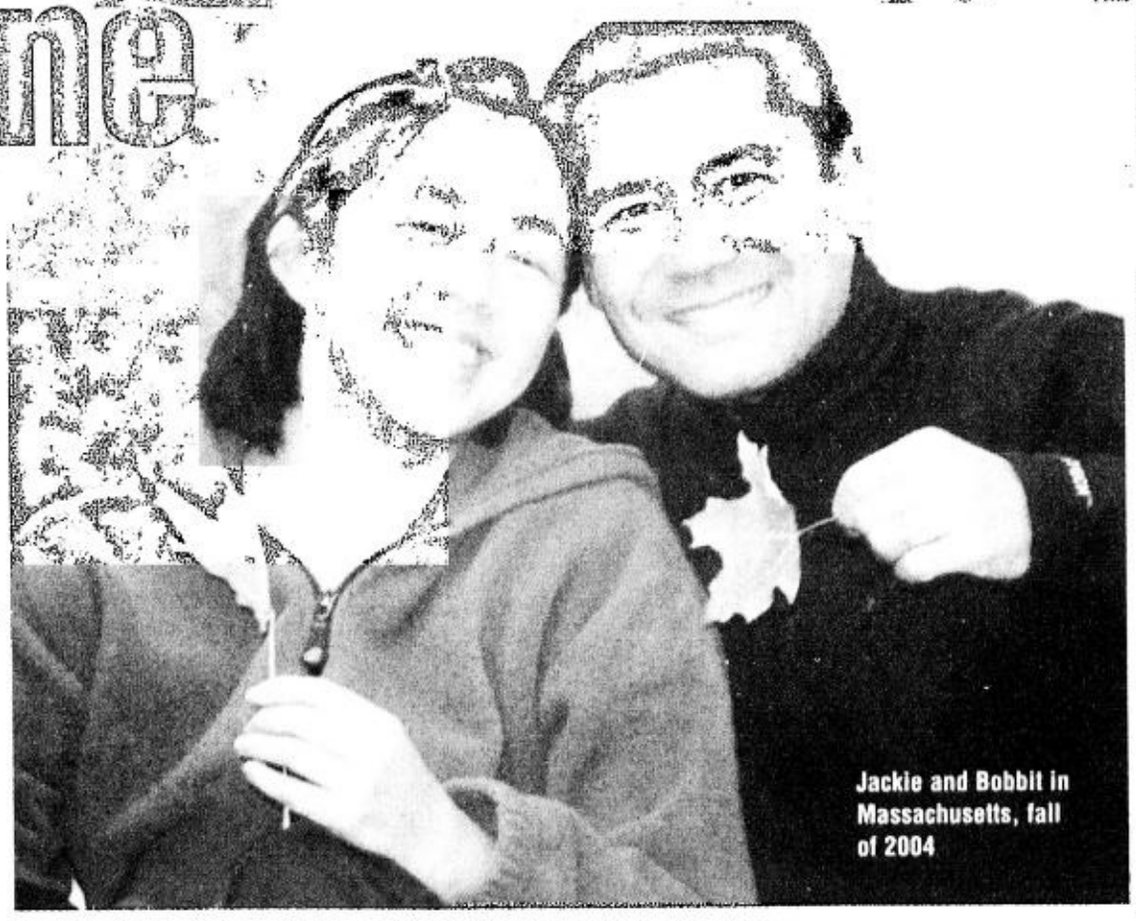


August 27, 2006
sundayINQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE



His wife lost her battle with cancer, but he isn't done fighting

Using support, education and hope—the key weapons of The Carewell Community—Bobbit Suntay wants to make the journey easier for cancer patients and the people who love them. And it's a journey that has transformed his own life



Jackie and Bobbit in Massachusetts, fall of 2004

by Alya B. Honasan
photographs by Romy Homillada

THIS is a heartfelt story of many things. The story of Bobbit and Jackie is, first and foremost, a love story of two beautiful people who were perfect for each other, but who were forced to make the most of their little time together when ovarian cancer cut short Jackie's shining life. It's the story of how fate—and for those of us who really do believe, how God—can truly make things happen, but only in His own time. And it is a story of transformation, how the saddest of tragedies can be turned around to ultimately help other people, bringing hope amidst pain.

The light is appropriately gentle this morning while we're photographing Robert "Bobbit" A.S. Suntay, managing director of The Carewell (Cancer Resource and Wellness) Community, what is envisioned to be a "one-stop shop" for all the resources, information, referrals and support that a cancer survivor and his or her loved ones will ever need. It's a clean, comforting place with inviting chairs and shelves full of books.

"This all started because we—myself, my family, Jackie's family—all wanted to help people in the Philippines who are engaged in the fight against cancer," Bobbit says. A doctoral candidate at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education. Bobbit speaks like a teacher, explaining clearly, smiling constantly. But, in his own words, he has become "old at 45," especially after seeing his wife die nine years after they were married. But he isn't a broken man. "I'm fig-

To page 6

Love in Lebanon, p.3 Actress of substance, p.4 Priest for the poor, p.5

LoveNotes

by Joe 'D Mango

A better life

My boyfriend is a very kind, thoughtful, sweet and loving person—when he's not on drugs. But I hate the change that takes place when he is

Dear Joe,

Just call me Azel. I'm 23 and working for a reputable company. I met this guy three months ago in my apartment building. He introduced himself and asked for my cellphone number. From then on, he kept sending me text messages. Eventually, he started courting me, and even introduced me to his family, even though I hadn't said "Yes" yet.

I liked him, Joe. Apart from his good looks, he really knew how to show that he was serious about me. When I finally said "Yes," he was really happy, and gave the news to his family right away. And it made my heart flutter to know his family cheered our relationship.

But just a week after we officially became a couple, we started to argue, mostly over petty things. One thing we'd always argue about was his jealousy regarding his younger brother. He suspected me of liking his younger brother, which is really untrue. Every time I go to their house, he would remind me not to look at his younger brother, even for a second.

Being the submissive type of girl, I obeyed out of love for him. But the arguments got worse. Eventually, he started to check on me in my office. There came a time that he didn't want me to go to work anymore because he was jealous of my officemates.

One time, I met my boyfriend's friend, who was living nearby. From that day on he's been suspecting me of going to his friend's place. Joe, I have a clear conscience. I don't see any other guys. I don't even like his friend.

What was really hard to take was what I discovered from his family. I found that he has been using drugs, even before I became his girlfriend. His mother wanted her son to stay away from his friends to prevent him from using drugs. That was why his parents were so happy when I became his girlfriend, because they thought I could change their son. But it really didn't work out that way, because every time we fought, he would use drugs as an outlet for his anger.

My boyfriend is a very kind, thoughtful, sweet and loving person—when he's not on drugs. But I hate the change that takes place when he is. I told his family to send him to a rehabilitation center, but they feel I can change him. How I wish I could help them out, but I really don't know what to do with him anymore. Should I wait for him to change completely? I don't want to be away from him, Joe—especially not now, when I'm pregnant. I love him very much.

Azel

Dear Azel,

People who are into substance abuse, like your boyfriend, sometimes engage in self-destructive behavior, rejecting any assistance others may offer. Intervention, when done correctly, is extremely effective in helping these people accept help. It usually involves several people approaching him in a clear and respectful way about his behavior, and making him listen and accept help.

Azel, not knowing what to do is precisely the reason why you need to get his family to let him seek professional help. It may be difficult to make him realize his need for assistance, but once he accepts that he needs support then it would be easier to make him accept change.

We all know that sometimes it takes the effort of professional people to address problems related to substance abuse. But above everything else, I believe that it is still the family and the people close to that person who would make the biggest difference in his life. We just shouldn't give up on people we love. We cannot stop loving them just because we find no reason to love them anymore. That is the real essence of love—that we hold on to things that we do not see yet and believe that they will come our way.

Azel, there is nothing that love cannot conquer. But it takes a lot of faith to see the miracles that happen in our daily lives. And it will take a lot of love and sacrifice from you and your boyfriend's family to make him see the opportunity to have a better life that he never thought existed before.

First Person

by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

How to face up to a world without hair gel, toothpaste and moisturizers, thanks to terrorists and airport security personnel

Travel in the time of Al Qaeda

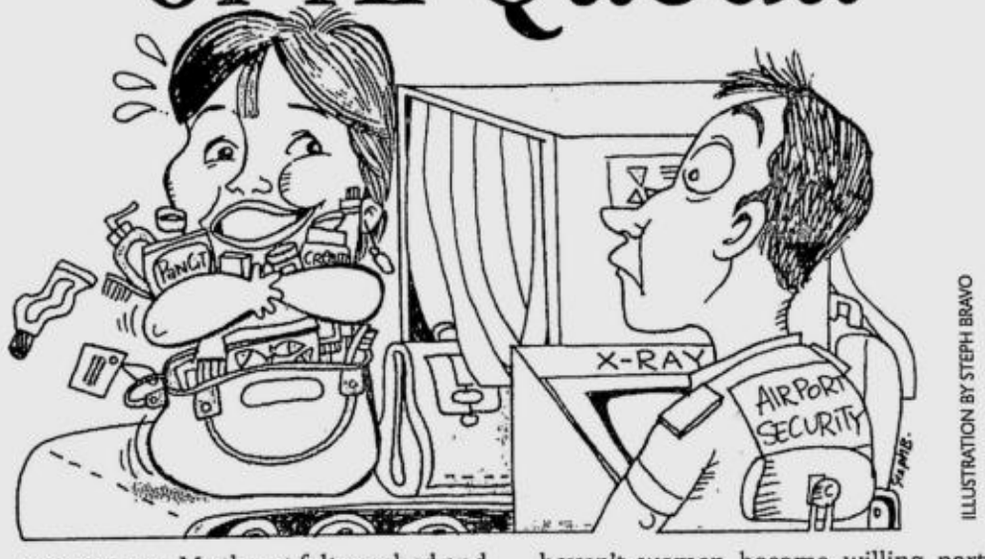


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

IT wasn't the thought of endless body searches, and the possibility of suddenly bursting into a fit of giggles should the security woman's frisking fingers hit a particularly ticklish spot, that fazed me. Nor was it the thought of inadvertently exposing the guilty entrails of my handcarry, the Ziplock bags winking guilelessly in the public glare, proof of my intent to smuggle ethnic food through customs despite huge warnings in Vancouver's airport.

It was the thought that for the next 20 hours or so of changing planes and crossing several time zones to attend this AIDS conference in Toronto, I would be deprived of toothpaste, mouthwash and moisturizer. Fortunately, I had weaned myself off hair gel, deciding a few years back that a stiff mohawk did nothing for my media credibility.

Because alas, we've all become victims of this capricious terrorist threat that has airport security personnel scrambling to repossess all liquids and gel from handcarry luggage around the world. And all because New Scotland Yard has come up with intelligence about an insidious plot to re-arrange the travel plans of the frequent flyer and to mess around with her cosmetic kit.

Airport Gestapo

Already, the airport had taken on the air of a Gestapo camp. Turn out your pockets. Out with your keys, your coins, is that a pacemaker setting off the alarm? Cellphones in the tray please. Raise your arms, turn around, open your bags.

Finally, we were cleared to go to the departure gate. But wait, is that another queue? Yup, and this time, people were taking off their shoes. Another inspection. Is that fungus on your toe, or a deadly biological weapon?

Oh look, there's a friend on the other side, a fellow conference attendee. I called out, he came over and extended a paw in a friendly handshake. Big mistake! A guard came over, gruff and business-like. "Ma'am, this is like an invisible fence," he said in accented English, gesturing toward the rope that separated the queue from the teeming masses inside. "You're not supposed to be in contact with anybody inside already. They've been, ahhh..." he groped for the right word. "Sterilized? Sanitized?" I asked, helpfully. "No, cleared, cleared by security. But since he's made contact outside, he has to be inspected again," the man said, motioning my friend to the end of the line. "Sorry!" I mouthed, watching friend get escorted back to the long, snaking line of the Unclean. "K *lang*," he shrugged. "*Para lang tayong may* AIDS, we can't have contact with anyone."

I was to learn later that the complicated layers of security applied to all planes bound for the US or the UK. Our Vancouver-bound plane, I learned too late, was flying on to Vegas. Bummer!

Bottled bomb

Finally, roughly two hours after I entered the Centennial Airport, I got to sit near my departure gate, and waited for boarding. But yet another circle of hell was to come. My throat felt parched and I dug into my bag for the bottled water. *Nada*! Confiscated at the gate on suspicion of being bomb material. Can I have a drink? I asked a PAL ground attendant who had been going around, checking passports. One Japanese-looking passenger had been asked to show his travel papers thrice. Oh, no! Was the Yakuza in on it too?

The man turned away briefly from his inspection chores and said they weren't serving water inside the airport. "*Bawal ho lahat ng* liquids," he said apologetically. "But what if I'm choking?" I protested. He shrugged but looked briefly toward the bathrooms outside the sanitized zone. Oh no, another roundabout for a tiny drink of water? I swallowed my spit.

Boarding time, and there we were, a bunch of bleary-eyed travellers, feeling suddenly wan and weatherbeaten, looking more and more like our passport pictures and befouling the air with our every breath. With no toothpaste in sight, the overcrowded plane had developed a sulphuric haze. Surely, it would take but one collective exhalation and the ozone layer would be history?

In the panic and confusion of heightened security alert, PAL had overlooked the amenities kit. So we huddled through the 12-hour flight, cupping a hand to our mouths and hoping the beef with vegetables didn't have too much garlic. Oh, for a touch of toothpaste, a drop of mouthwash and some night cream! Really now, how could these forces of evil—most certainly bearded men who've never heard of moisturizers—have turned the billion dollar cosmetic industry into a potent source of weapons for mass destruction?

Mass distraction

I looked around at the faces of mass distraction around, mine included. The airconditioning had done its work. Everywhere in the dry manufactured air, women's skin was slowly but surely turning into crepe paper, each pore a dry scaly shadow of its old self. Drunk with power, some security agents even went for the lip gloss gels that some women flaunted so carelessly in their cosmetic pouch or, horrors! flagrantly used in public. Collateral damage, the agents had explained soothingly of this latest casualty in the war against terror.

Things were turning ugly, and not just the women. Images of shorn locks among women prisoners during the Nazi times were brought up. Public humiliation, the women murmured, hinting at mutiny. The Al Qaeda's way of getting back at the women, John LeCarre fans pronounced, because haven't women become willing partners in the capitalist world's not so hidden agenda of dominating retail trade? And imagine if the oil-producing kingdoms were to withhold their black currency from the world market! Where would all that petroleum-based beauty products be? Geo-politics has never sounded so slick.

Hmmph, snorted hard-core feminists, nothing but a subtle way to get women off vanity and into *chadors*, the fundamentalists' equivalent of walking around with a paper bag over one's head, or wearing sackcloth and ashes.

A week later and the trip home wasn't any better. At Toronto airport, the notices still warned of carrying liquids and gels into one's handcarry, bottled water included. True to the Pinoys' hospitable nature, our Fil-Canadian hosts had slipped unopened bottles of water into our bags, saving each of us at least C$2.69. Still in their original pristine stage, surely the bottled water would prove acceptable?

Barbarians at the gate

Alas, they had barbarians at the gate and we all had to scramble to open the bottles, take a deep breath and drink as much as we could before regretfully shucking the still half-filled container into the trash bin. You can always buy water inside, a Pinay airport guard suggested by way of consoling us.

Indeed, but the water—at a scandalous C$2.79 (including taxes)—was being poured into paper cups before they were handed to customers. Well, guess who's making a killing while killing this very Pinoy tradition of making *baon* on the plane?

Again, no gels allowed, no toothpaste, no face cream, lotion or moisturizer. Again, the plane was full and there was no way a woman could hibernate comfortably, her face turned away from the world and into the backrest, there to wrinkle in peace.

But sigh, what does it matter that women are sleepwalking through the airports of the world in less than their personal best these days? Who really cares if chapped lips are the new pink, and morning breath the fresh new scent of the day? Is today's politics too skin deep to withstand the weight of all that confiscated face goo?

In the end, I guess it's all a matter of creating chaos, business unusual, and admitting—albeit grudgingly—that a shadowy group from half a world away has gotten deep into our lives, and right into the heart of our most quotidian of routines. For a while at least, during these troubled times, the Al Qaeda has managed to literally change the face of the world.

Two poems by Francis C. Macansantos

Paraplegic's Sonnet

Ghosts of my hands, ghosts of my feet,
Ought rightly to be what these stumps exude
—So they say—projections that quite elude
The mundane eye, although they are a feat
That the avid initiate can complete
Through deep concentration. But here I brood,
Unable to assume the attitude
Of meditation—and admit defeat.

I cannot cross my abbreviated legs
Or join two absent palms in prayer.
But desire, more than the pain of loss, begs
For completion in things, great or small—
Or so my phantom limbs seem to infer.
For if God desires, well then, desire is all.

Baguio Fog

Fog,
You strange familiar,
You buffet me again,
Nudge me
With the moisture
Of past encounters:
The lake a hushed,
Live jewel watching,
The highway tree drowning,
Arms flailing,
Struggling
In your Christmas smother.

What is this privacy
We share, moist-lipped,
Eyed? You seize me
By the muffler,
By the heart,
Me, a private denizen,
Citizen with all my rights
Caught in this sudden rush,
The ghosts of pasts returning,
This hushed presence, I
Am immersed
In this immensity
Of an embrace,
Precipitately blessed,
So many times
At once
Reborn.

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Editor in Chief **Alya B. Honasan**
Managing Editor **Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz**
Associate Editor **Ruel S. De Vera**
Staff Writer **Eric S. Caruncho**
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Advertising & Sales Manager **Kenny Nuyda**

THE Sunday INQUIRER MAGAZINE holds office at Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, with telephone number 897-8808 locals 317 and 318. Mailing address: PO Box 2050, 1099 Manila, Philippines. E-mail: sim@inquirer.com.ph. For press releases, send e-mail to pr_sim@inquirer.com.ph.

Survivors' Tales

by Nikko Dizon

A Filipino flees the war but leaves her heart in Lebanon

Finally safe: Nemia with children Christian and Christelle

JESS YUSON

Having married a Lebanese man, OFW Nemia Sevilla Adaimy had to brave the current conflict to bring her children home safely. But her thoughts keep straying to her husband who remains in Beirut in this time of uncertain truce

NEMIA Sevilla Adaimy fled the war in Lebanon without any of the sob stories that thousands of her *kababayan* brought home to Manila.

Nemia, 38, did not have to tie blankets together, like many Filipina domestic helpers did, to climb down an apartment terrace to escape her Lebanese employer. Nor did she have to cry and beg her employer to release her from her contract because her children are waiting for her in the Philippines, unlike this Filipino driver who realized that his son needed his parents alive, more than the combined $400 he and his wife earned working for a Lebanese family.

Nemia's story is something which only a handful of other Filipino returnees have shared.

Had it not been for the war between Israel and Hezbollah militants, Nemia would still be in the Northern Lebanon home she shared with her Lebanese husband, Edmond, and their two beautiful children.

But the fighting disrupted the wonderful life the Adaimys have enjoyed for the last decade.

Edmond had to hastily send his family back to the Philippines, fearing that they might no longer be safe in Lebanon.

Nemia said it was a last-minute decision for Edmond, 42. "For two weeks, I wheedled and begged my husband to let us go back to the Philippines, but he said no."

Their area was safe from the Israeli bombs, Edmond had said, because many Christians lived there.

Targeted areas

But Nemia could feel the earth shake whenever bombs exploded near their home. She and her husband also saw billows of smoke from the targeted areas in Southern Lebanon and heard the drone of Israeli war planes.

But she and her husband tried to shield their children from the war by living their lives as usual.

"I made them play in the garden. They still fed their three turtles with lettuce in the morning," Nemia said of Christelle, 7, and Christian, 4.

On Aug. 4, however, three weeks into the intense fighting, Israeli forces destroyed the major highway that linked Lebanon to Syria.

It was the road that the convoys of thousands of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) took out of Beirut and into Damascus and finally, back to the Philippines.

That Friday, a convoy of hundreds of Filipinos was on its way to the highway when representatives of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which facilitated the evacuation, received an urgent warning to turn back because the road would be bombed.

The group of OFWs returned to the Church of the Miraculous Medal in Sassine, Beirut and would make another attempt to leave Beirut the next day, using a longer detour route along the Mediterranean coastline.

They did make it to Damascus. The next group of Filipinos to leave via that detour route would include Nemia, Christelle, and Christian.

"After the highway was bombed, my husband feared that we would be trapped in our country and our children would go hungry. So he decided to send us back here," Nemia said.

She added that Edmond regretted not making them leave sooner. Nemia and the children arrived in Manila with some 450 other OFWs on Aug. 10 via an IOM-chartered Middle Eastern Airlines flight.

Long journey

She was visibly exhausted from the long journey that included a 10-hour road trip from Beirut to the Lebanon-Syria border, a brief stay at the relocation center in Damascus, a three-hour bus ride to the international airport, and an 11 1/2- hour plane ride to Manila.

Thankfully, she had friends who helped her throughout the trip with the children and continued to lend a hand at the Manila airport.

Nemia said that little Christian, in particular, was restless throughout the

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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by Jerome Gomez
photographs by August de la Cruz

The softer side of a seriously serious actress

Fresh from her 24th—count 'em—acting award, Jaclyn Jose lets her famous guard down to push independent films, and to talk about life, love and never tiring of her craft

WE all know about her performances, and tangible proof of the praise she's earned stands proud on her living room's console table. The table, in fact, has run out of space to accommodate the most recent addition to her acting honors: the Urian Best Actress trophy she received last July for her performance in the indie film *"Sarong Banggi."* From Jaclyn Jose's first award, an Urian for *"Takaw Tukso"* in 1986, to the latest, there are now 24 trophies in all, including 10 Best Actress wins, two of them from the Asian Television Awards, 11 for Best Supporting Actress, and one Star Awards statue for Actress of the Decade. The only years she remembers missing out on were 1993 and 1994. *"Ah, kasi dumating si* Mark Gil" (That's when Mark Gil came), she says.

Much is known about Jaclyn the serious actress, but very little is known about the private Mary Jane Guck, her real name. Meeting her for the first time, it's surprising how she will nonchalantly throw a one-liner like that, revealing both a private part of her life and a capacity to be funny. It's especially interesting when her public image is based mostly on her roles as quiet victim and fallen woman, prostitutes who are a bit too poetic for the average call girl ("She can get away with poetry because she is a poetic presence," says her *"Sarong Banggi"* director Emman dela Cruz), or for the *dedma* (deadpan) acting she's famous for—no histrionics, every breakdown always an implosion. In person, she looks a decade younger than her 42 years.

This afternoon at her townhouse in Quezon City, she is wearing just a small amount of blush. *"Ayan*, we have a 16-year-old," says the photographer, showing us a refreshing image of his subject in his camera viewer—a Jaclyn smiling, no serious actress mien, but possessed of the one-two punch director Dela Cruz refers to, of maternal charm and earthy sensuality combined.

Youthful beauty

In fact, her youthful beauty can give the two girls we are watching on TV that afternoon—ditzy starlets milking their broken English act to the last drop—a run for their money. Jaclyn seems mildly amused watching the two.

"Wala akong panahon" (I have no time), Jaclyn says when asked if she ever considered getting involved in a gimmick when she was younger in show biz. *"Kahit na nga may laman na or may* issue, *hindi ko pinapatulan. hindi ko nakagisnan na pinag-uusapan yung sarili ko."* (Even when there is an issue, I don't react. I wasn't trained to talk about myself.) When talk shows invite her to be a guest for certain topics such as motherhood and other private stuff, she'd tell them off: *"Ano'ng kinalaman ko diyan?"* (What have I got to do with that?)

Today, she's willing to let us in a little. Recently, she's been more accommodating to help create more noise for the young independent producers of *"Sarong Banggi"* (the film begins its commercial run this September 6 at 11 SM Cinemas), the story of a tender relationship that develops between an aging prostitute and a 16-year-old boy after a strange one-night stand. According to Dela Cruz, who also wrote the film, it's a homage to all of Jaclyn's most popular characters, sort of like predicting how that woman in films like "White Slavery," "Macho Dancer," "Private Show," etc. would end up. It's also a showcase of her motherly nature.

We begin with any mother's favorite subject: her kids, Andy, 16, and Gwen, 4, who both escorted her to the Urian. It was the first time she brought them to a very public showbiz event. When Andy and Gwen jumped out of the car after their mom, the crowd in the lobby of Ateneo's Irwin Winkler Theater suspected that Jaclyn already knew the results of the evening's Best Actress derby. The truth is, the day of the ceremony, she had just gotten back from a seven-day shoot in Vigan (for the Chavit Singson horror film *"Barang"*). "And five days is the longest I've been away from the kids. So I promised them that as soon as I got back, we would go out for dinner." But since she had to attend the awards night, the kids decided to go with their mom. "I'm at the point in my life now where I want to spend most of my time with my family."

Independent champion

While she was delivering her speech, championing the cause of independent cinema, Jaclyn was also watching Gwen in the audience, sitting on the armrest to get a better view of his mom. After the show, she asked her son why he didn't join her onstage. "He said his heart jumped a little. He's like a grown-up." Andy, who looks like a young Jane, was seemingly unmoved, biting her fingernails while watching her mom get her award. "I won, and she didn't even kiss me," Jane says in Filipino. *"Manang-mana sa 'kin, 'yung parang wala lang."* (She takes after me. acting like nothing happened.)

PHOTO COURTESY OF STARSTUDIO

All for family: With kids Gwen and Andy; at left, with her latest Urian Award

Jaclyn herself wasn't emotionally demonstrative growing up. "I didn't grow up in a family where people talked about life a lot," she says in Filipino, mimicking an old woman's voice. "I was a typical kid, I'd play *piko* (hopscotch), do my chores, the old school kid of old school parents." Hardly; her mother was a singer and actress in *zarzuelas*, and her father was a GI at the Clark Air Base. Her parents separated when she was four years old, and she hasn't seen her father since. Jane's brother is still trying to trace his whereabouts. *"Hindi namin alam kung patay o buhay. O nagtatago"* (We don't know if he's dead, alive or hiding), she says casually.

Her mother had to force her to join showbiz ("She didn't ask me, she forced me"). She was never attracted to the whole idea, and would be in tears every time her mom would drag her to the auditions at producer Baby Pascual's studios ("My mom would play mahjong with *Tita* Baby"). They were then looking for five new faces to be launched in the film "Chikas." "Every time there was an elimination, I'd pray that I'd get voted out," Jaclyn recalls.

Quiet girl

"She would always just sit in the corner then," recalls her manager Ed Instrella. *"Payat, hindi masyadong palaayos, parang mestisang api-apihan sa bahay."* (Thin, not very well-dressed, like a *mestiza* who's treated badly at home.) Instrella, screenwriter Armando Lao and the "Chikas" producers were charmed by the girl's quietness, how different she was from her gregarious batchmates (which included Tanya Gomez, Rachel Anne Wolfe

and Lovely Rivero). Armando Lao said, "She's different, I like her."

From there, Lao would recommend her to Lino Brocka (who directed her in "White Slavery"), and then Lino would vouch for her to Chito Roño. Roño would court her for two weeks, fetching her from her house to bring her to the movie set and back, along the way telling her about this character named Myrna, a live sex show performer, whom Jane would end up playing in "Private Show."

"My impression of acting before came from my sister (Veronica Jones, a favorite leading lady of action stars in the early '80s). *Basta artista*, glitter, famous, you'd get invited to fiestas, you'd get mobbed. I didn't want that. Until I met Lino. That's when I learned about passion for the craft."

New world

The work also opened her eyes to a whole new world. "It's like I lost my virginity," she explains in Filipino. "My mother never told me that life was like this, we didn't have any dramatic moments. I only learned about the word 'breakdown' when I met Mark Gil." Whether it was Mark or she who broke down, Jaclyn would rather keep off the record.

They fell in love on the set of *"Itanong Mo sa Buwan"* in San Pablo, Laguna. They were on and off for two years, and even lived with Mark's famous parents. While she won't get into the details of the relationship on record, let's just say it was a tempestuous romance. *"Masalimuot"* (Complicated), says Jaclyn. The biggest culture shock she was avoiding for the longest time finally exploding in front of her.

"When I entered showbiz, I chose to be detached from everything outside of acting, I just did my job. When I met Mark, I got more and more involved. It's like I became a monster." Even Instrella, her manager, tried to stay away from Jaclyn. "She was really affected by Mark, artist temperament *din kasi 'yung isa*."

"Upon knowing Mark, I was overwhelmed," she says. She gets so worked up talking about Mark sometimes that the cut she's nursing on her finger seems to throb more frequently. "That's why I'm trying to raise my kids like me. *Yung* 16-year-old, she's in school, but on Saturdays she's just in her room. It's not like other kids who carry their parents' hang-ups with them. As much as possible I want my kids to be unaffected, detached, so there's no pain."

She did fall in love after Mark. *"Siyempre kung may bunga, eh di na*-in love" (There's a fruit, so I fell in love). The *"bunga"* is Gwen. The father is 32-year-old Kenneth Ilagan, lead guitarist of True Faith. "I was shocked, because at 37, I didn't expect to have another kid."

Big responsibility

She was also shocked for Kenneth, because it was a big responsibility for a 28-year-old guy. They met one of those days, when she and friend Cherry Pie Picache would be going out to bars for a nightcap. "We would watch acoustic acts, then later we were looking for something a little more wild, so we'd end up watching bands."

She introduced herself to Kenneth. "I had no intention of getting serious at that time, I thought I was just having a good time."

They're still together—but it's gotten complicated. *"Hindi pa tapos pero hindi rin alam kung kailan itutuloy*. (It's not over, but we don't know either if we're going to go on.) We're at a stage where we're just following the natural flow of things." Kenneth drove Jaclyn and the kids to the Urian. "He's very busy in his career right now, and I know that his passion is his music. I don't want to stop him, I know what it's like to be at the height of your passion. He did say he wasn't going to be a guitarist all his life."

But acting still seems to be where a major part of Jaclyn's personal happiness comes from. She finds little frustration in her craft. "My body, my years, my life, I gave to this business. I'm very fulfilled here, because in everything I do I give everything, even in the smallest role, or the biggest. And with all the trophies, *di ba? Hanggang ngayon, tingnan mo naman lola mo, umaakyat pa rin di ba? Ayaw magsawa*. (Until now, look at me, still going onstage for my awards. I don't get tired of it).".

People of the Faith

by Corazon A. Ong

Call him the male version of *Mother Teresa*

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Reared in poverty, this Jamaican missionary finds that serving the poor is a natural calling—and he'll persuade, cajole and even sing to get the job done

FATHER Richard Ryan Ho Lung, founder and superior general of the Missionaries of the Poor (MOP), is often referred to as the "Male Mother Teresa" or the "Ghetto Priest."

This Jamaican missionary recently arrived in the Philippines to bless and formally open the Little Lamb Center for Children, a center for special kids in Cebu City, and to say Mass for the MOP silver jubilee celebration in Naga City. Apart from Cebu and Naga, another MOP center is being planned in Metro Manila.

Founded in Kingston, Jamaica in 1981, the MOP was officially recognized as a religious order by the Vatican on October 7, 1997. It has since extended its missionary work to India (1992), the Philippines (1993), Haiti (1994) and Uganda (1995). Of late, the MOP has been invited to set up mission houses in such countries as Belize, Guatemala, Liberia, Kenya and even the United States.

Serve the poorest

Fr. Ho Lung and his followers have chosen to serve the poorest of the poor: feeding, clothing and sheltering the homeless, caring for the orphans, the aged, the sick and people abandoned by their families or cast away by society, like those afflicted with leprosy or AIDS.

The call to serve the poor, said Fr. Ho Lung, "is an invitation to happiness. The poor possess a joy that is pure and highly contagious, for it doesn't come from material comfort and prosperity but from the very gift of being alive each day."

Poverty is not something new to this second of four siblings, who was born and raised by very poor Chinese parents in the rural part of Jamaica. The family shared a tiny bedroom that had no electricity.

"As a child, he remembers one small cup of rice being passed around for dinner to be shared by him, his parents, his two sisters and one brother," reads a write-up on Fr. Ho Lung from the 10th anniversary booklet of the MOP (Naga). "He had only one pair of pants, which was worn until it was severely tattered, exposing his rear end to the elements and his ego to a battering."

The best part of his childhood was playing with the Jamaican children in the neighborhood. "Until now, I would constantly remember their simplicity, their warmth, their love and their goodness," Fr. Ho Lung recalled.

From Macau, the birthplace of his father, the family migrated to Jamaica in the 1920s, following the footsteps of a paternal grandfather. "He was part of the cheap labor force brought in by the British government to Jamaica. He was an indentured servant who was free to go after working for a couple of years."

Fr. Ho Lung's father rented a tiny shop in Kingston, selling grocery items like sugar and toothpaste while the children went to a school run by Franciscan sisters. "Although the family was doing a little better by then, we were still struggling. I was about 12 when I got converted to the Catholic faith," he said. Not long after, the whole family, who used to be Buddhists, followed suit.

An emptiness felt

For two years after finishing high school in a Jesuit-run institution, Fr. Ho Lung worked in an insurance company and later, in an airline firm. "I was told I was good at both but I felt an emptiness in me and I knew I had to go." So in 1959, he went back to school and entered the novitiate for Jesuits. He was ordained in 1971. Armed with three masteral degrees in English, Philosophy and Divinity plus a doctoral degree in Humanities, he became part of the academic world, handling English and Theology in Boston College in the US and teaching English in two universities in Kingston, Jamaica.

But the emptiness would continue to haunt Fr. Ho Lung even long after he became an assistant priest in Jamaica.

The burning of Eventide Home, a government-run facility for homeless people, where 150 women died, hastened his decision to leave the Jesuit order in 1980. "When that happened, I was deeply disturbed. It no longer made sense to me to continue doing what I was doing. I had to be where I was needed more—in the company of the poor and the destitute."

Thus, the Missionaries of the Poor was born in 1981, with only four members, including Fr. Ho Lung. "Jamaica is a non-Catholic country—only 2.5 percent of the population are Catholics—so it all seemed like an impossible calling, but in my heart, I knew this was where my faith was leading me. MOP started with just one house for the homeless. Now we have five. People have been very generous to us but the demand is always there, so whatever donation we get is never really enough." In Jamaica alone, MOP has to prepare two-and-a-half million meals a year to feed the homeless and the others who come knocking on their door. "We also receive 10 calls a day for homeless children alone but we try never to turn down anyone," Fr. Ho Lung explained.

Fund-raising concerts

With no income-generating projects to fund the mission, MOP relies on donors, fund-raising concerts and preaching missions abroad. A gifted musician and composer, Fr. Ho Lung has written over 350 songs, musical plays and oratorios and has produced 16 CDs, LP albums and cassette tape recordings. For over 35 years now, his group, popularly known as "Fr. Ho Lung and Friends," has done live stage performances in many parts of the world, including the US, Europe and the Caribbean.

Every day, however, Fr. Ho Lung and the mission brothers—now numbering over 400—must beg for a living and for the ministry's needs, from food, clothing and medicine to construction materials.

Did Fr. Ho Lung ever experience being rudely turned down for his solicitations? "A few times, yes, but I don't take it personally because I am only an instrument of the Lord. One time an owner of a big electrical company slammed the phone down on me, so I wrote him a short note saying I accept the banging of the phone, but is there anything you could do to help the poor? He gave the mission a $10,000 donation. Another time, a man told me that he would never, never help the poor because he is a bitter and cursed man. He and his wife had no kids and thus God, to him, does not exist."

The same man, however, would later have a change of heart and adopt a child recommended by Fr. Ho Lung. "One day, he told me, 'Father, since this child makes me happy, I will buy you a house,' and so he did. The house is now home to 90 women." But the story of God's little miracles, as Fr. Ho Lung puts it, does not end there. The man and his wife now have three children of their own.

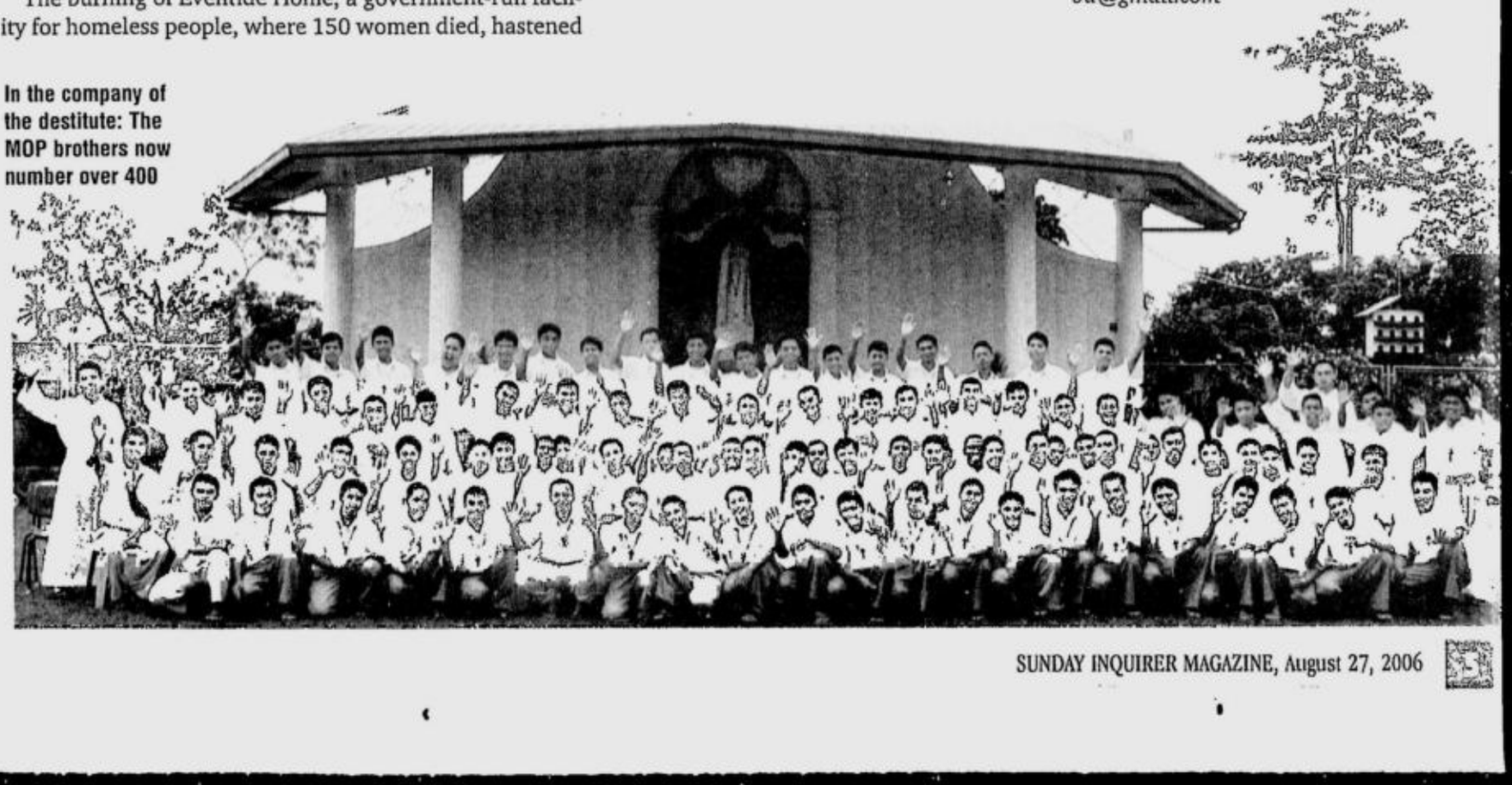
Carrying on

Two years ago, Fr. Ho Lung had a triple heart bypass, but that did not stop him from carrying on his work at the mission. According to Brother Lawrence Mendoza, the assistant mission superior in MOP-Naga, who had the chance to work closely with Fr. Ho Lung in Jamaica, a typical day for the priest starts at 5:30 a.m. with some quiet, private prayers and ends at 10:30 p.m. The bulk of his time is spent soliciting donations, and organizing fund-raising concerts and preaching missions. He also conducts classes for novices and professed brothers four times a week and writes a weekly column, "Diary of a Ghetto Priest," in the Jamaica Gleaner, a leading newspaper in his hometown.

What is his life's greatest wish? "I would like to see the vocation grow and the brothers to be united with Jesus on the Cross so we can alleviate the suffering of the poor. People now are becoming more and more concerned with money, power and position. Many forget that the poor are also their brothers and sisters. We need to have a civilization of love."

His message to the Filipinos? "Filipinos must not forget their roots, the roots of their soul and who they are. When you lose your prayerfulness and your sense of silence, you become confused."

Donations are most welcome: MOP Naga—(54) 811-5717 or 811-5649, mopnaga@digitelone.com; MOP Cebu—(032) 2629527, mopcebu@gmail.com



In the company of the destitute: The MOP brothers now number over 400

Bobbit ...from page 1

uring, if I'm really lucky, I'll have almost as many years ahead of me as I've had behind me, especially if I stay in shape."

Bobbit and Jackie had been living in Boston and studying at Harvard—he was taking his doctorate, she had just completed a medical fellowship—when they found out she was ill. It was their experience with a group called The Wellness Center (TWC) in Boston that convinced the couple of the value of such an all-around support center, and laid the foundation for Carewell. There are currently 24 TWCs all over the US, one in Israel, and another in Tokyo. Since Carewell's in-house services are offered free, and it is a completely non-stock, non-profit organization, Bobbit, as the Carewell Foundation's president, has been actively soliciting support from friends and linking up with various organizations. With Carewell's soft opening in early September, Bobbit hopes it will become the first such hub of its kind in Southeast Asia.

Unexpected call

Bobbit's own journey as an educator began years before. An Ateneo psychology graduate, he was a well-known campus figure and sportsman who somehow ended up as a religion teacher and sports coach at Xavier High School in Greenhills for his first job. "Why did I leave that job? You'll laugh—I was afraid I would enjoy it so much I'd never leave and try anything else!" When he did leave, it was to take the typical yuppie route to graduate school and a high-paying job with Andersen Consulting in Washington DC. "You'd be making so much money, but couldn't enjoy it because you were always stressed out."

An unexpected call from the Jesuits—and a great excuse to be with his sick mother—brought Bobbit back home to another unlikely job, as the 29-year-old high school principal of Xavier from 1992 to 1997. "It was the most fun, scariest, hardest, most amazing job I've ever had, to this day. I think I was really cut out to be an educator."

It was on July 4, 1992, that Sir Bobbit met Jessica "Jackie" Fernandez on a blind date. He was seven years her senior, and, as he likes to joke, "It was the fourth of July, and there were fireworks." For Bobbit, the atttraction was immediate. Jackie was in medical school at the UP-Philippine General Hospital (PGH), but was far from being bookish. "It was the whole package—she was very pretty, very smart, very kind, full of life."

The two began dating, and Jackie had soon gotten the former competitive athlete into outdoor sports like scuba-diving, kayaking and trekking. After three months, Bobbit proposed. Jackie's response: "Are you nuts? I'm in med school!" They were married only four years later, in 1996.

Fast-forward to Boston. Two weeks after Jackie had graduated from her fellowship, the couple was in Manila for a vacation in July 2003. Jackie had already seen a doctor in Boston, complaining of what felt like constipation and a swelling in her belly; they told her she had nothing to worry about. "To be fair, ovarian cancer has very ambiguous symptoms," Bobbit clarifies.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Every moment counts: Bobbit and Jackie diving in Tubbataha in 1994, above; at right, Jackie and her father Ace Fernandez in the US, when both were undergoing treatment for cancer

In Manila, she had more tests, and that was when a scan revealed a tumor. "It was pretty dramatic," Bobbit recalls the day they found out. They had gone to Makati Medical Center, where Jackie met up with former classmates and now practicing doctors, who lightheartedly guided her through the tests. "Then the results came back, and Jackie was sitting there with them. You could see their faces turn blank, and they were trying so hard to stay calm." The diagnosis was ovarian cancer, Stage IIIC—"a hair away from Stage IV," Bobbit says. "That meant a 20 percent chance of living five years."

Pure shock

The initial reaction wasn't even fear, but pure shock. "It was only when we started bringing in the specialists that it began to hit, when they started using the words you don't want to hear." Jackie underwent immediate surgery that included a total hysterectomy, and the couple left for the US for her first round of chemotherapy. She would undergo a total of four major operations.

While in remission for a short period in 2004, Jackie would give up her own treatments for almost four months to come home to Manila to play both daughter and doctor—her father, engineer Ace Fernandez, was also diagnosed with late stage pancreatic cancer. Bobbit's own father, Angel Suntay, had been diagnosed with prostate cancer within the same six months as his wife and father-in-law, and had passed away within the same year. "That year was really hell for our families," he says, still shaking his head in disbelief. "But Jackie knew exactly what she was doing. She was at her dad's side until he died in February 2005."

The anger over the whole experience only came much later, Bobbit would recall. "It was the apparent unfairness of the situation—she was 35 years old, in the prime of her life, and she had worked so hard. Both of us were finally done with our stuff, and we were ready to start a family. And she was such a good, good person; this should happen to serial killers and mass murderers. It was really pissing me off."

Strong front

Separate support groups in Boston, one for cancer patients and another for their spouses, proved invaluable to both of them, especially since Jackie was never one to talk about the possibility of dying. "She may have felt that voicing that out would make it too real and take away her resolve to fight, and she was determined to fight," Bobbit says. "I tried to keep up a strong front for her, and for the most part I succeeded. But with the support group, I was free to break down, cry, or throw stuff, which I did, many times."

Bobbit combined this with one-on-one psychotherapy, which he still undergoes to this day. There is also the fact that he considers himself "both an optimist and a realist.The day I heard the diagnosis, while the bigger part of me was saying, we're going to fight this, part of me knew what Stage IIIC meant. So for two years and two months I was able to prepare for what might happen—that she might not make it."

And then, there was talk about not having children. "We considered various options—adoption, surrogate parenthood—but all premised on the fact that Jackie would survive." Today, Bobbit can clearly see why they never became parents. "Sometimes I feel it would have been good to have had a child, considering the comfort, love and stability that it would have brought me, because I love kids. On the other hand, I know how hard it is to raise a kid in this day and age, with both parents—what more as a single dad? Now I'm grateful, especially for the child, who would have had to grow up and realize that he or she didn't have a mom. I guess God knew what was going to happen, so He steered us in the right direction."

Extreme grace

Jackie bore her suffering with extreme grace and good humor, melting even the most hardened doctors and surprising friends who thought she would beat the disease. Even before her death on Oct. 2, 2005, Jackie still wouldn't mention "the D word," Bobbit says. But she would begin leaving instructions. "I want you to be happy," she told her husband. "I want you to make decisions that will make you happy."

To the end, the compassion that was behind Jackie's drive to be a good doctor was evident. When her oncologist apologized for not being able to do any more, Jackie asked, "But what about the future?" "Whose future, yours?" the doctor asked. "No, I know it's too late for me," Jackie answered calmly. "But you've got to learn from my experience for all the other cancer patients."

"She was a tough girl," Bobbit says. "She would be smiling even when she was throwing up. And to the end, she was thinking about other people."

Bobbit likes to describe two "peaks of difficulty" for him throughout the whole experience. The first was "the whole terrible experience of seeing her suffering. The only thing I could do was hold her hand. I'm a total chicken; if left to my own devices, I'd bolt the room. She was the one being pinched, pricked, and prodded, and I'd be the one crying."

The second peak was going back to Boston by himself in April 2006, almost five months after he had brought Jackie's remains home to Manila. "It was the same apartment, the same bed where she died, and I was all by myself. I got to a point on certain days when my major achievement was brushing my teeth." Thanks to his faith, counseling, family and friends, Bobbit slowly got back into a routine, including long solo eight-mile runs along the river. "It was good being with my thoughts and my grief—then slowly being with my growing hopes. I'm in a far better place now than where I was in April."

Tugging at the heart

Professionally, Bobbit admits he's at a crossroads, with one path continuing on the road of educational development, and the other seeing him give more of his time to Carewell. "All my best decisions happen when I respond with a leap of faith," he says. He can look at a picture of Jackie and be alright, although a familiar song or hearing her voice on a video still tugs at his heart. He still prays to her, and instantly, things happen, he swears. "People ask me if I 'feel' her presence. Well, when I'm down, I tell her things, and somehow things work out. Who else could be listening to me?"

Friends have expectedly been on Bobbit's case to date and go out again. "They love me, and they know that being in a relationship is important to me," he says with a laugh. "I'm okay with that, and I've actually gone out." The main reason he has no fears about moving on, Bobbit explains, "is that I had such a wonderful marriage. If it had been terrible, why would I be open to doing it again? But I am optimistic about being with someone again. And I owe that to Jackie. Whoever I may end up with will not be a *panakip-butas* (space-filler). She should be fabulous in her own way, and that kind of person will have room in her heart to recognize the place that Jackie will always have in my heart. My own heart is big enough for that."

The same road

For now, though, Bobbit's heart is also set on helping people who have to deal with sickness in someone they love. "In order for you to be there 100 percent, you have to also take care of yourself—physically, spiritually, emotionally, psychologically, whatever it takes. If you get sick and break down, you won't be of much help to your spouse or yourself. You will feel guilty, but don't let it stop you from doing what you have to do." Fortunately for those who need it, what Bobbit Suntay really wants to do right now is to make his own difficult journey an easier one for others on the same road. Q

The Carewell Community will open in September. Call tel. no. 893-0041, e-mail info@carewellcommunity.org or check out www.carewellcommunity.org. for details and inquiries, or if you would like to help.

A Filipino ...from page 3

trip. "I had a belt which I used to tie him to me throughout the trip but we eventually lost it," she said.

Nemia threw a smile at her energetic son who played with a toy at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) while waiting for her to fill out their immigration forms.

But her mind was also in Lebanon, where Edmond has remained to keep an eye on their home.

"He said he had to stay behind because whenever there's a war, there would be looters who would forcibly open empty houses. We have a lot of things that we can't afford to lose," Nemia said.

Tears slowly filled Nemia's eyes. "I worry who's going to cook his meals," she said at the thought of her husband.

Lebanon life

The couple met in 1996. Nemia was then working in an office after having started life in Lebanon as a baby sitter for three years.

Edmond first saw her in a photograph. Then at a party, he asked to be introduced to her through a Lebanese friend, whose girlfriend was a Filipina.

"He courted me with flowers and food," Nemia recalled with a laugh.

Later, she told him she was going to Bataan for a vacation. He went with her to ask for her hand in marriage from her parents. At that time, they had already been a couple for nine months. They got married in 1997.

After 15 years in Lebanon, Nemia's is indeed a success story. And she shyly acknowledged that, having gone a long way from being a saleslady at a gift shop in Orani, Bataan, and a toll gate cashier so could put herself through college.

With a computer secretarial degree, she went to Lebanon in 1991 to try her luck. In her words, she was fortunate that her employers treated her very well.

"They made me feel like I was a friend and a part of their family," Nemia said. After her three-year contract as a baby sitter expired, she found work at an engineering and trading company and met Edmond along the way. She resigned from her work in 2002 and found another job.

Time off

When the couple had Christian, Nemia decided to take time off from work so she could attend to him and do some "housekeeping at home."

"When my son's old enough to go to school, I'll look for work again so I can help my husband. We want to be financially secure for our children. It's also hard to be stuck at home, especially if you're used to working," Nemia said.

Edmond has his own subcontracting business in house painting. Nemia described Lebanese people as kind, but indeed she has heard of OFWs being maltreated by some of their Lebanese employers.

"I didn't experience that, but others have known how it was to be hurt or locked in or have their wages withheld."

Low regard

There are some Lebanese, Nemia said, who have a low regard for Filipinos simply because they work as domestic helpers.

"But not all Lebanese employers are bad," she added.

An estimated 36,000 OFWs work in Lebanon, mostly in Beirut, as domestic helpers. Since the war broke out last July 13, some 5,000 OFWs have returned to Manila.

Nemia has adapted well to life in Lebanon, particularly learning how to "economize," especially after the children were born.

"I think they are more Filipino than Lebanese," she said with a laugh. And the children do know a few Filipino words like "*maganda*," "*kumusta*," "*mabigat*," "*mainit*." Edmond himself has learned to love *pansit, menudo, alimango, sugpo*, and yes, even *bagoong*.

But Nemia said she would still get homesick and dreaded the feeling of being alone, especially during holidays. "They don't celebrate Christmas in Lebanon like we do here in the Philippines," she said.

Nemia added that when she gets the chance, she also socializes with fellow Filipinos. For now, Nemia said she and the children will be staying in Bataan.

It's Christian's first time in the Philippines, while Christelle was born here.

Fiercely optimistic

The ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah, prompted by the United Nations resolution, appears to be holding up. Nemia and her children arrived a week before the truce.

So far, she has remained fiercely optimistic that the war will soon end and that the Adaimys' life in Lebanon would soon return to normal.

"The children miss their Daddy and their turtles. In Syria, they kept calling him up on the phone, 'Daddy! Daddy!'," Nemia recalled, tears welling in her eyes.

"We call each other regularly. My husband might come here in October if the situation doesn't improve, and we'll stay here. Or we'll go back if the war is over, and if classes can start."

In the meantime, this Pinay may be home in the Philippines, but her heart certainly remains in Lebanon. Q

Pinoy Ngaa!

by Jess Abrera

Badminton sa Kalsada

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

		5	8		3			
	1			7		9	6	
					1			
		4			9	6		
	3						7	
		1	4			3		
				5				
	7	9		8			2	
				1		6	8	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 8/27

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Answer to previous puzzle

9	5	4	3	7	2	6	8	1
7	1	6	9	8	4	2	5	3
3	2	8	5	1	6	7	4	9
8	7	2	6	5	9	1	3	4
1	3	9	4	2	7	5	6	8
6	4	5	1	3	8	9	7	2
5	8	1	7	9	3	4	2	6
4	9	3	2	6	5	8	1	7
2	6	7	8	4	1	3	9	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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This Week

Art

Bencab on Paper: Prints and Paper Pulp Paintings, recent works of Bencab from his artistic residency at the Singapore Tyler Print Institute as well as early prints from various private and institutional collections, until Sept. 3 at the CCP Bulwagang Juan Luna.

Atbp

Casa Real Montessori celebrates its **25th Foundation** with a concert "Rivermaya... through the years" on Aug. 31 at 7 p.m. For tickets, please contact (046) 4715677 or (046) 8755445 or at eventsecretariat_casareal@yahoo.com.

The city government of Marikina will hold a **Sapatero Festival** on Sept. 2-9 in various venues of Marikina City. The event showcases the talents of Marikeños, as well as CCP's resident companies, among them, the Philippine Madrigal Singers in a concert titled "Madz in Marikina," Ballet Philippines with Marikina City Ballet Theater in a production "Ballet Shoes: Made in Marikina?," and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra onstage in "Musical Shoe." There will be a citywide motorcade and opening of sister-cities trade fair at the Riverbanks Center. Other activities include children's art exhibit, business forums, skills demonstration, shoe rap singing contest, shoes design and "harana" competitions, "shoeper" celebrity bazaar and auction, a Rock-Ed concert, and a shoe fashion show. For inquiries, call Lea Santiago at mobile no. 0917-8572397 or tel. no. 646-3787.

A **Hands-on Introductory Course on figurine making**, fiberglass, stained glass and other polyester resin products will be held on Sept. 14-16. Call Polymer Products at 671-9837 for details.

Channel																				
ABC 5		Ringside TV			FBI's Rookie Diary						Todo Max		Philippine Idol			Shall We Dance		ABC Cinema		
ABS-CBN 2	Your Song, Ang Soundtrack Ng Lovelife Mo	Lovespell			The Buzz				TV Patrol World	Goin' Bulilit		Rated K		Sharon		U Can Dance			Sunday Family Cinema	
AXN		Agent Cody Banks					E Buzz	Samsung Sports World	WRC 2006: Finland		Fear Factor (Season VI)		Mondo Magic	Mondo Magic	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 3)		CSI: NY (Season 2)		CSI: Miami (Season 4)	
Cartoon Network	Hi Hi Puffy Ami Yumi/ The Powerpuff Girls	The Road Runner Show	Tom & Jerry Show	Pet Alien/ Planet Sketch/ Camp Lazlo/ Grim & Evil/ Fairly Oddparents/ Billy & Mandy			Gun Adventures Of Billy & Mandy/ Cow & Chicken/ Pet Alien/ Camp Lazlo		Robotboy	The Simpsons	Courage The Cowardly Dog			The Gem Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons/ Powerpuff Girls/ Dino Thundr	The Batman/ Dragonball Seed/ Destiny	Power Rangers Dino Thunder/ The Simpsons	Gundam Seed/ The Brak Show	Justice League Unlimited	Aqua Teen Hunger Force/ The Batman
Cinema One					Can This Be Love				Kung Ako Na Lang Sana				TBA				Sabel			
Cinemax	While Hunter, Black Heart (2:35 PM)					A Kiss Before Dying (4:25 PM)			Tagpuan (5:35 PM)			Bloodsport			The Sleeping Dictionary			Passenger 57 (10:45 PM)		
CNN		World News			World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News		World News	World Sport	Talk Asia		World News	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Late Edition Live	
Crime/Suspense		I, Detective	Extreme Evidence	Law & Order			Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Cold Case		Cold Case		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		The Grid		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice	
Discovery Channel		How Do They Do It	Building The Ultimate	American Chopper			Building The Bridge		Mythbusters		Hour Asia		Cathay Pacific Signature Series		Hyperspace With Stephen				Power Zone	
Disney Channel	Art Attack/ Billy & Buddy	Totally Spies New Season Yr 2	Kim Possible	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch		Martin Mystery	American Dragon	Emperor's New School	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN							Asian X Games Do-Review		LPGA Golf/ Women's Pro Shootout/ Children's Rd.					Major League Baseball Saturday						The Beautiful Game: 100 Yrs of FIFA
ETC		Saturday Night Live		Insider Weekend	Rated Ch/ 5		American Dreams 2		One Tree Hill 3		America's Next Top Model 5		Outer Eye Fox The Sweating Guy		Project Runaway 2		Nip/ Tuck 3		Rated Ch/	Insider Weekend
ETC 2nd Avenue		Blow Out 2		Today Show - 1 Hour Version			Dateline		Cold Turkey 2		NBC Nightly News	WSJR	Nanny 911		The Director		West Wing		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood Chronicles
EWTN	Defending Life	Chapel Of Mercy/ Angelus	The Donut Man	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica		Octavia Dies	Rome Reports	EWTN Global Showcase		Onward Pilgrims	Images of Mary	Sunday Mass Live			The World Over Encore		Life Is Worth Living	The Abundant Life	
Fox News	Fox News Watch	Fox Report Saturday		Heartland With John Kasich			Big Story Weekend Edition		Bolway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox & Friends Sunday						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Gigsters	Love To Love		S-Files					Mahiwagang Baul		Pray Meets World		Mel & Joey		All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office	
Hallmark Channel		Gulliver's Travels					Gulliver's Travels				Just Cause		Wild At Heart		Supernova			Supernova (10:45 PM)		
HBO	Entourage 10: My Name Is Doc 10:5 (2:45 PM)	Ice Countdown To D-Day			Ocean's Twelve					Are We There Yet?			Batman Begins				HBO: Full Access The Making Of Batman Begins	Christmas With The Kranks (10:45 PM)		
Hero TV	Mashup Video Rescue	Dear Boys	Demon Lord Dante	Bake The Grapple/ EZ Shop	Zenki		Rockman	Peacemaker	Sorcerer Orphen	Baroem One	Babel II	Mars, The Animation/ G3		Voltes V Evolution	Street Fighter				Ragnarok	Demon Lord Dante	Bake The Grapple
IBC 13		Ang Bating Hanap Ko?					Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		My Fair Say On Cha-Cha		Pinoy Action Hits				Iyo Ang Kalamihan		EL SHADDAI		
Jack TV				Comedy Central	Premium Blend		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Distraction	Banzai	American Dad	Family Guy	WWE Smackdown				South Park	Drawn Together	Crank Yankers	Dr Katz
Lifestyle Network	Embellish This	DIY Crafts	DIY Jewelry Making	Your Private Island	Fine Living Special			Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Wolfgang Puck	Food Network Special		E! Entertainment Special		Before Night Falls				Fashion Trance	
MTV Philippines	Ultrasound Kyla	MTV Hits	MTV News	Get Hitched	Homecoming		Room Raiders	Boxing Pearls	Pimp My Ride	Homewrecker	Punk'd	Wildboyz	All You've Got				MTV Hits	Rewind the City	MTV Screen	Sessions Kyla
MYX		Pinoy MYX Countdown					Take 5	MYX Bandanto	MYX News	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Presents			MYX Hit Chart			MYX Backtrax	MYX Vlog
National Geographic	Storm Stories	Volcano: Mega Volcano		Explorations Powered By Duracell	Amazing Moments		Best of the Week: Ultimate Enemies (Sea Lions & Lions)		Volcano: Volcano (Built for Destruction)		Explorations Powered By Duracell	Amazing Moments	Mega Asia: Japan's Kakyo Bridge		Best of the Week: Into The Lost World		Nat Geo Investigates: Fourth Secret Chambers Revisited			
NBN		Tatanong Bayan (Sining Ganap)							Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Congress in Action		The Working President	Under Construction	The Sports List		Pilipinas Ngayon		Special Events: Flora Blanca ng Ang Dating Daan/ Pahayag/ w/ Cardz Ka'ts	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Dapat Alam Sa Diyos Daan			Ang Pagbubuyag		Net 25 Weekend Report	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Tribe	Convergence	Ang Mga Dapat Alam Sa Diyos Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		Net 25 Weekend Report	Euromaxx	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Tomorrow Today
Nickelodeon	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Just For Kicks	Catscratch		Avatar, Legend Of Aang	Danny Phantom	Troliz	Sponge Bob Square Pants	Just For Kicks	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle	Girls In Love	The Amanda Show	The Brothers Garcia	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Pugad Commandos					Utang Ko Sa Iyo/ Ang Buhay Ko				Ang Panibagong Pedro Penduko				To Love Her More				Ang Kapatbahay
Qtv		Lois And Clark		Galaxy Angels			Bongga Ka Star		Ang Pinaka...		Pop Star Kids		May Trabaho Ka		Sunday Super Show				Groupee TV	
RPN 9		Golf Power	Fistorama		Sure Hits		WWE Smackdown		JAG		Navy Nas		Without A Trace		Sunday's Big Event					The Working President
SBN 21				Buhay Pinoy			Shepherds Voice		New Life				Oras Ng Himala		Oras Ng Katotohanan		Gabay At Aksyon			
Solar Sports				Badminton 2006 JVC Open					WNBA Conf Finals Game 2				2006 FIBA World Champ Games: Puerto Rico				Boxing: Vernon Cornel vs Ike Quartey			
Sports Plus				Motoring Today			RM Wall Climbing	Nopi Tunervision			World Game		World's Greatest Auto Show: Chicago		Raceworld		Bula Open Highlights		Golf Today	Inside the PGA
Star Movies							Rollerball			Spartan (8:45 PM)				Opening Night: The Devil Wears Prada	Hide And Seek			The Fan Club (10:45 PM)		
Star World		The Office	Arrested Development	Kevin Hill			Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	NCIS		Sons & Daughters	The Office	Oprah Prime Time		Life Isn't All Ha Ha Hi Ho		Parkinson		Hollywood Shootouts	Oprah Prime Time
Studio 23									Exposed		Gagitol	Y-Speak		US Girls	Desperate Housewives		Digital Tour (10:15 PM)	Badminton Extreme		Tru Calling

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

SM Supercenter Pasig opens

SM SUPERCENTER PASIG OPENED its doors to the public Aug. 19 to thousands of shoppers who were excited to find the SM experience just around the neighborhood.

Located on a 2 hectare property on Fontera Verde along Eulogio Rodriguez Jr. Avenue in Pasig City, the 29,017 square meter mall now serves residents in the neighboring upscale residential and industrial subdivisions like Valle Verde and Green Meadows. It will also serve customers who regularly pass the C5 route to and from Quezon City, Cainta, Antipolo, Pateros, Taguig, and Marikina City.

A blessing was held a day earlier with a concelebrated Mass led by Bishop Francisco San Diego, followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony that had city officials Congressman Dudut Jaworski, Vice Mayor Yoyong Martirez, and Councilors Boy Raymundo and Andy Santiago as guest of honor. Members of the Sy family - SM founder and chair Henry Sy Sr., Felicidad Sy, SM Prime Holdings president Hans Sy, SM Supermarket SVP Herbert Sy, and SM president Tessie Sy-Coson, joined them.

OCLP executives Rafael, Ignacio, Francisco and Fernando Ortigas and Rex Drilon also attended the event, as well as Department of Trade Secretary Peter Favila, San Miguel Corp president Ramon Ang, Prudential Guarantee chair Robert Coyuito, former Quezon City Mayor Mel Mathay, and Vilma Valera.

Envisioned as a one-stop shop for household and day to day needs, as well as a great place for gathering with family and friends, SM Supercenter Pasig's nature inspired design complements the themed Tiendesitas area where it is located. Natural lighting through the circular skylight in the atrium, and a play on colors - sky blue, forest green and muted shades of pastels bring forward a fresh, organic concept.

SM founder and chair Henry Sy Sr., checks out the SM Hypermarket. With him are (from left) SM Prime Holdings president Hans Sy, SM Supermarket SVP for marketing Herbert Sy, SM Hypermarket's Robert Kwee, Pasig City Congressman Dudut Jaworski and Vice Mayor Yoyong Martirez.

Great shopping at the SM Supercenter Pasig begins at the SM Hypermarket, the mall's main anchor. A hypermarket is a European concept that combines supermarket, general merchandise, and discount retailers, a concept that has become popular in the Philippines for the past few years.

SM mainstays like ACE Hardware and Watsons are located in the new mall, as well as shops like Books for Less, Century Chinese Drugstore and Astroplus.

Taste Asia, the concept first popularized in the SM Hypermarket in the Mall of Asia, is a draw for foodies, allowing them to experience the rich flavors of Chinese, Filipino, Japanese and other Asian cuisines dampa style. Other eating out options to look forward to are Country Waffles, Coffee Nook and Go Nuts Donuts. Services will be just around the neighborhood with News Barbers, Tooth Spa Dental Clinic, Photoline and a Banco de Oro branch.

Soon to open are Toby's, Office Warehouse, A Veneto, Icings, Life Coffee and Tea, Gloria Jean's Coffee, Little Poon, and Kamirori.

SM Supercenter Pasig's design team include Hanskoning Phils, design architects; JR Pangilinan and Associates, architects of record; DA Abcede and Associates, project manager; and Metro Stonerich Corp, general contractor.

SHARING honors with the ribbon cutting ceremony during the blessing of SM Supercenter Pasig were Congressman Dudut Jaworski, Felicidad Sy, Bishop Francisco San Diego, SM Prime Holdings president Hans Sy, Pasig City Vice Mayor Yoyong Martirez, Councilors Boy Raymundo and Andy Santiago.

INQUIRER PARTNERS WITH QUIZ BEE FOUNDATION

The Philippine Daily Inquirer partners with the Quiz Bee Foundation for the 9th year with the aim of strengthening education through academic excellence and the promotion of youth readership. The 27th National Quiz Bee is the longest running and most respected academic competition in the country. Annually, it involves 16.5M students from elementary, secondary and collegiate levels from both public and private schools, colleges and universities who go through a series of multi-level eliminations from school, district, division and region. The competition culminates in a Grand National Finals at the Philamlife Theater in December. The Quiz Bee program is also supported and endorsed by the Office of the President, DepEd, Ched and DILG. Simultaneous with this year's Quiz Bee, is the turn-over of the 20 masterpiece Guyito sculptures and holding of the Inquirer journalism workshops to the highest ranking public high schools across the country. Shown in photo during the contract signing are (from left) Ave Lacsam, Quiz Bee associate project director; Pettizou Tayag, Quiz Bee vice president; Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Inquirer president; and Connie Kalagayan, Inquirer head of corporate affairs.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL OPENS BUENDIA BRANCH

Sacred Heart School (SHS), a pioneering pre-school known for its high quality education, recently opened its second branch in Makati City at the third floor, Goodwill Bldg, Senator Gil Puyat Avenue (formerly Buendia). Shown during the blessing and ribbon cutting ceremonies are special guests of honor (from left) Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, president of Philippine Daily Inquirer, Charito Tambunting-Juan founder of SHS, Angela Arroyo, wife of Congressman Mikey Arroyo, holding presidential granddaughter Monique and Teresa Cancio-Suplico, president of Goodwill Bookstore and business partner of SHS. Sacred Heart School has been committed since 1967 in providing the innovative curriculum, right values and motherly care to help pre-school children meet the challenges of grade school. SHS continues its legacy of excellence in pre-school education by establishing accessible branches in Metro Manila located in San Lorenzo Village, Makati Sun Valley, Paranaque, The Fort, Taguig, Sto Cristo, Binondo and in Malabon. For more information on its curriculum and other learning programs call Eduworld at 815-3607.

How to avoid long queues at payment centers

IT'S THE DAY AFTER PAYDAY and your Meralco bill is due for payment. For sure, the queues at the payment counters will be long. You thank Meralco that your due date this month falls after payday. Unlike in previous months when it was either the 11th or 12th or 13th of the month. But then there are thousands of other Meralco customers like you who, glad that there's money from their 15th -of - the -month paycheck, will troop to the payment counters of Meralco, the tellers' counters of your bank, and various payment centers in the malls to pay.

The good news is you don't have to pay at these counters and stand for an hour or so queuing. You don't have to rush after office hours to catch the payment center before it closes at 7 p.m. And you don't have to spend extra for jeepney fare to go there or for parking fee and gasoline if you go by car. Chances are, there's an ATM close to your place of work where you can pay.

If you're a BancNet cardholder, you can pay your Meralco bill and a host of other bills at your bank's ATM or through the Internet via www.bancnetonline.com at any time of the day or night. You don't have to withdraw your money so you'll feel secure not having to carry a lot of cash. There's no transaction fee for this service and you don't even have to register.

You can also pay other utility bills like Manila Water, Maynilad, PLDT, Bayantel and Digitel.

Other bills that you can pay using your ATM card are bills of your credit card companies; your cellphone, Internet and cable service providers; your insurance premiums; and loan amortizations for Chinatrust Salary Stretch, Citystate Savings, PSBank, and Standard Chartered EZ Loan.

Another good news is that when you pay your bills at any BancNet ATM, at www.bancnetonline.com, or through BancNet Mobile Banking, you get a chance to win P20,000 in 3 monthly draws or P1million in the grand draw. This BancNet "Pay Bills, Pay Back" promotion is ongoing until Oct. 31, 2006. Payments through your bank's phonebanking and Internet banking facilities are also qualified. You'll earn an electronically assigned raffle number for every payment transaction.

Inquire at any of BancNet's 29 member banks or through tel. no. 892-0785 for more details.

AD FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING AND ELECTIONS

The Advertising Foundation of the Philippines, the industry's social development institution held its annual members meeting recently for the election of its board of trustees and corporate executive officers for 2006-2007. In photo are (seated, from left) Alfred Santiago, director of Advertising Suppliers Association of the Philippines (Asap); Dodie Lucas, managing director of Roadrunner Network and the foundation's immediate past treasurer; trustee Tessie Celestino Howard, president of Independent Blocktimers Association (IBA); assistant board secretary and executive director Linda Gamboa; trustee Raul 'RJ' Esteban, president of PSRC and the Marketing and Opinion Research Society of the Philippines (Mores); and trustee/PRO Pepito Olarte, vice president of Inquirer and president of United Print Media Group (UPMG); (standing, from left): Bindoy Baltazar of Unilever Philippines; trustee Agapito Alacantara Jr., vice president and marketing director of Asia Brewery Inc; Alden Castaneda, vice president of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp; trustee Jose Rafael Fernandez, president of Well Advertising; trustee Andre Kahn, chair and CEO of J. Romero & Associates and director of the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies - Phils (AAAA-P); Antonio Samson, president and CEO of OMD Phils and the foundation's immediate past chair; Jose Pavia, executive director of Philippine Press Institute (PPI); Johnip Cua, newly elected foundation board chair; trustee Carlo Llave, president/CEO of Fourth Dimension and board chair of the Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines (OAAP); trustee Joselito Yabut, president of Primax Broadcasting/A. Yabut Mgt & Development Corp; Serafin Bautista, marketing consultant of GMA Network Marketing; and trustee/comptroller Ruperto Nicdao Jr., president of MBC and board chair of Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (KBP).

Globe brings WiFi to SMEs

GLOBE TELECOM BRINGS wireless broadband Internet access to the country's small and medium enterprises (SME) with Globe Broadband WiFi.

With this service being offered by Globe Bizworks, Globe enables small businesses to turn their offices into WiFi (wireless fidelity) zones.

"We want to help businesses optimize their operations and enhance their productivity by equipping them with the latest connectivity service. Now entrepreneurs and their employees can access the Internet from anywhere in the office via WiFi," Globe Bizworks marketing head Ailene S. Averion said.

She added, "Whatever the size of your business, we have the wireless Internet connection suited to your needs. Globe Broadband WiFi allows SMEs to go wireless and enjoy a cable-free office set up. Also, we can easily add new users as your business grows."

Globe Broadband WiFi is offered in three packages: Trader, Tycoon and Taipan. Trader is for businesses with one to three laptops or devices. Get download speed of up to 1.5 MB and upload speed of up to 512 kbps for P2,950 per month.

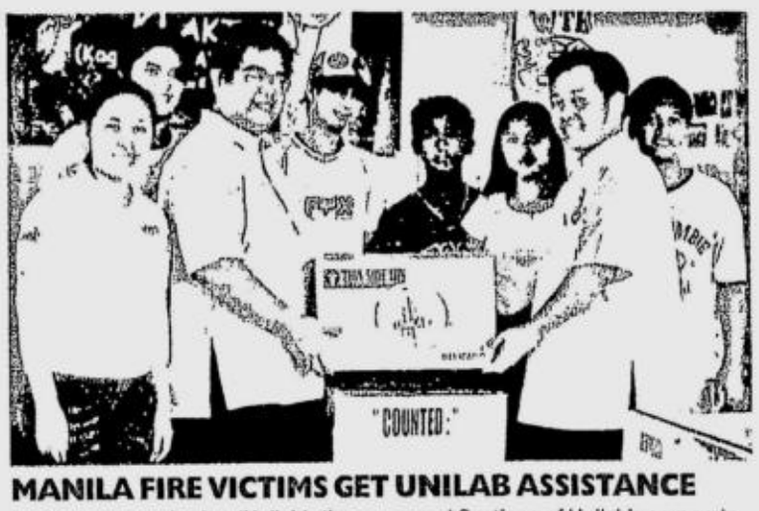
For those with four to 10 laptops or personal digital assistants (PDA) that need wireless broadband Internet access, the Tycoon package gives faster speeds for a monthly service fee of P4,950.

The Taipan package is for businesses with more than 10 devices. This gives download speed of up to 2 MB and upload speed of up to 1 MB for P7,850 per month.

For more information on Globe Broadband WiFi, please call the hotline (02) 730-1288, toll-free number 1-800-8-7301288 or email customercare@innove.com.ph.

TMPF DONATES ENVIRONMENTAL BOOKS TO DEPED

The Toyota Motor Philippines Foundation (TMPF) recently donated 2,800 copies of the booklet entitled 'Toyota and the Environment' to the Department of Education (DepEd) to be distributed to the different public schools in Santa Rosa. TMPF president Dr. David Go (center) and Toyota Motor Philippines Corp (TMP) executive vice president for manufacturing Hideki Omae (right) presented the booklets to DepEd-Santa Rosa division superintendent Dr. Belen Manzanero during turnover rites at the Toyota Special Economic Zone. Published by TMP, the booklet contains basic awareness information about different global environmental issues like global warming, ozone layer depletion, and extinction of species. It also tackles local environmental issues such as air pollution, water pollution and solid waste generation. The booklets are intended to be distributed to TMPF partner schools.



MANILA FIRE VICTIMS GET UNILAB ASSISTANCE

United Laboratories Inc (Unilab), the country's leading pharmaceutical company, provided medicine assistance to some 655 families affected by a recent fire at Purok Tres, Barangay 20, Zone 2, District 1 in Tondo, Manila. Unilab provided the medicines through Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) and youth group Kabataang Gabay ng Bayan (Kagabay). Shown in photo is Raymond Santiago of Unilab's corporate affairs division turning over the medicines to Kagabay officers and members led by chair Lord Alfred Elmido and PBSP project officer Kristine Jimeno. Kagabay is the implementing partner for the Directly Observed Therapy Short Course (DOTS) clinic of the Manila Health Office, and is one of the Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations awardee in 2005.